China warns RP on Scarborough boardings

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Chief censor faces Sin's ire, GMA's ax

BY DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTCRB) was in danger of being fired after the influential Catholic Church criticized the board for allowing the showing of a sex film.

CHIEF/ A7

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Big US firms take fresh look at RP** BUSINESS / B1
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Gloria: Let PCGG go after Irene loot

HELLO to new Defense Secretary Reyes at his first Cabinet meeting with President Macapagal on Tuesday.

JOAN BONDOC

No need for her to call shots in investigation

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

A FLASH of presidential temper surfaced as President Macapagal-Arroyo refused yesterday to issue additional directives to boost the Philippine government's request for evidence on the alleged attempt by Irene and Greggy Araneta to launder Swiss funds into Germany.

Instead, the President said she would rely on the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) despite calls for her to do more.

Or, the President could rely on a Senate investigation. The legal staff of the Senate blue ribbon committee has been tasked to verify the INQUIRER reports that the Aranetas tried to move a $13.2-billion Swiss account to a bank in Germany, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., yesterday announced.

Pimentel said if the report is true, he will convene the committee and summon the Araneta couple.

There had been a clamor for the Department of Justice to enter the investigation or for the President herself to take an active role in coordination with the German government on its investigation of the first-ever documented laundering attempt by the heirs of the late strongman, Ferdinand Marcos.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that he could not do anything unless requested by the PCGG or by the President.

"Actually (as of) now, we have not been tasked to assist the PCGG, but if they will ask for help then we will be willing to help," he said yesterday.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez had also called on the President to not just rely on the PCGG and to call the shots herself because of the importance of the investigation.

Ms Macapagal flared up when asked if reliance on the PCGG was all that her government would do.

"The PCGG is part of the government! That's why we have different departments because they have to do what they have to do," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she saw no need to form any special body to

GLORIA/ A6

Senate debate on listing stalled

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND VOLT CONTRERAS

THE SENATE last night suspended deliberations on a consolidated measure that would allow a one-day special registration, raising questions if Congress could meet its deadline today to pass the law.

The Senate wanted to give senators time to study the Senate committee report that sets for April 7 a special registration for three million voters who failed to register for the May polls.

At the House of Representatives, attempts by Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen to once more stall efforts by the House majority to speed up deliberations on the measure providing for a special registration were thwarted when majority of those present voted to constitute the House into a committee of the whole.

Dilangalen had argued that for a committee of the whole to be convened, the House should first agree by a two-thirds vote to suspend its rules and only after allowing arguments from all sides to be aired.

The other day, Dilangalen had delayed the session for almost three hours by questioning the legality of the special sessions called by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Senate bill presented to the

SENATE/ A19

Comelec mum as Namfrel, NPC bicker

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE NATIONAL Press Club yesterday claimed it was also accredited by the Commission on Elections to conduct a quick count and denounced the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) for allegedly conditioning the public into believing that only Namfrel was allowed to conduct an unofficial advanced tally of votes.

Namfrel, on the other hand, raised doubts about NPC's capability to sustain the citizens' count, saying it was "not a sideline" one picks up.

While the two groups bickered, the Comelec remained silent. The body has not announced its official resolution on the separate applications of the two groups for the quick count.

A Comelec source said the body was delaying the release of the resolution because it wanted to see the reaction of the NPC, Namfrel and the public to the reports leaked to media.

"It is like a trial balloon," said the source. "If the en banc sees that accrediting both groups to hold their own quick counts would only result in trouble based on the reactions, they might just allow only one to conduct the quick count."

COMELEC/ A19

THE 11TH HOUR DECISION

'I did not plot vs Erap'

Editor's Note: The following narration by the former AFP Chief of Staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, who recently retired and was appointed defense secretary by President Macapagal-Arroyo was obtained last week by the INQUIRER which had to defer publication due to space constraints.

BY GEN. ANGELO T. REYES (RET.)

(First of a series)

IT WAS shortly after high noon of Jan 20, 2001. I was at the Edsa Shrine. So, too, were an estimated half a million jubilant Filipinos. The rest of the nation was watching or listening to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo take her oath as the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

After the newly installed President said "...so help me God," the crowd let go a thunderous roar of triumph and relief.

I told myself, I had delivered on the first part of my mission as the chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Now I have to work on the second part.

Just the day before on Edsa I, together with the entire leadership of the Armed Forces, withdrew support from President

I DID/ A19

VAL HANDUMON

GOODBYE, Erap. Behind, Gen. Angelo Reyes who came to see off his former commander in chief.

GMA scared of military, leftists claim

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, CARLITO PABLO AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

"HAS President Macapagal-Arroyo allowed herself to be blackmailed by the military?"

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) yesterday raised this question following the appointment of the retired Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, as defense secretary.

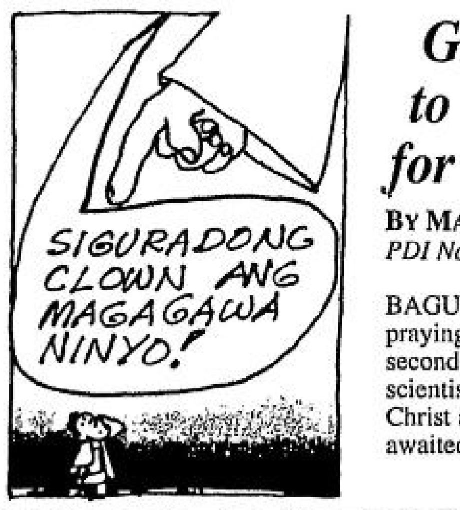
The President defended the appointment of Reyes, saying it does not constitute a "militarization" of her administration.

Ms Macapagal said that she was not even going against tradition in naming Reyes to the top post at the Department of National Defense.

"Well, if you look at tradition, there had really been more defense secretaries coming from the military than from the civic sector. So this is not really going against the grain," Ms Macapagal said in her regular press briefing.

"President Macapagal is too scared of the military. But she forgot to consider the fact that the people who installed her into the presidency also have the power to defend her government," Alvin Luque, head of Bayan-Davao City, said.

GMA/ A19


SIGURADONG CLOWN ANG MAGAGAWA NINYO!

Group wants to clone Jesus for 2nd Coming

BY MAURICE MALANES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Tired of praying and waiting for His second coming, a group of scientists aims to clone Jesus Christ and fulfill the much awaited biblical prophecy.

GROUP/ A6

FEMALE MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez delivers her speech Tuesday at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Business Convention and Exhibition on Globalization and Transformative Leadership. On Monday, President Macapagal was the keynote speaker of the conference organized by Bridges.

ROGER CARPIO

GMA invites bright graduates

MALACANANG will open its doors to poor but bright high school graduates who will render summer jobs in order to discover the nobility in public service.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Palace internship will give those who graduated valedictorian and salutatorian a first-hand experience in the seat of power itself.

"What better way of learning the thousand and one facets and intricacies of leadership can there be?" she said.

With such experience, she said, the youth will "learn first-hand how judgment that shapes lives and destiny of our people are arrived at."

The President said she had already ordered the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Presidential Management Staff to draft the rules for the interpship program. She said she wants the program started this summer and asked all valedictorians and salutatorians to apply for the program. *Armand Nocum*

Second FRONT PAGE

AMIN YATA YUN!

VESSEL DISPUTE

China warns RP

BEIJING—China warned the Philippines yesterday against boarding Chinese fishing boats in the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, but pledged to investigate alleged illegal fishing practices by its fleet.

"The Philippine side had no right to board the Chinese fishing boats in the area or take any measures against the fishermen," foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao was quoted as saying by the "China Daily."

The Philippine Navy last week boarded 10 Chinese fishing boats near the Scarborough Shoal, which the Chinese call Huangyan island, the paper said.

Both the Manila and Beijing claim the reef, which lies about 250 km west of Luzon and some 900 km southeast of Hong Kong.

It is northeast of the Spratly group of islands, which are also claimed by both countries as well as Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Yesterday, Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja disclosed that the Philippine ambassador to China had been summoned by the Chinese foreign ministry in Beijing, apparently in retaliation to the diplomatic protest that the Philippine government filed over the intrusion of Chinese fishing vessels.

On Monday, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez filed a diplomatic protest with Beijing over a growing number of Chinese fishing vessels that have strayed into the area.

Chinese fleets with about 13 to 18 ships were regularly seen poaching in the area, Golez said.

Yesterday, Golez reported that Cabinet Cluster E had proposed that, as a long-term solution to the dispute, the government should look into the possibility of joint development of Scarborough Shoal with other foreign countries, not necessarily China.

According to Baja, Philippine ambassador to China Josue Villa was made to report to a Chinese official whose rank was lower than that of a DFA assistant secretary.

Villa, being an ambassador, holds the rank of at least an assistant secretary.

Protocol dictates that Villa should have been summoned by a Chinese official who was of equal rank.

According to Baja, the Chinese official emphasized to Villa "that the Scarborough Shoal [was] theirs" and that "we don't have the right to conduct maritime sovereignty patrol because Scarborough Shoal is theirs."

Villa was said to have asserted that "the Shoal is ours."

Although no arrests were made last week, the Philippine Navy said the Chinese vessels were only allowed to leave after handing over boxes of illegal fishing equipment like electrical blasting caps, time fuses, dynamite sticks, cyanide and several endangered marine species.

Using cyanide and dynamite to fish has been blamed for indiscriminately killing nontargeted fish species and destroying coral reefs.

Zhu maintained that the Chinese fishing boats were engaging in "proper and normal" fishing and that Beijing prohibits fishing harmful to the marine environment and marine life.

"The Chinese government will investigate all illegal fishing activities and will impose due punishments in accordance with the law," Zhu said.

Armed Forces chief General Diomedio Villanueva said the Navy had been placed on high alert to prevent similar incursions and that, since January this year, 26 Chinese vessels had strayed into the area.

Yesterday, Golez told reporters that a Philippine Navy vessel would be stationed to guard the reef, but not to make arrests, to make sure that last week's incident would not be repeated.

Earlier this year, the Philippine Navy boarded four Chinese fishing vessels in the area and ordered them to leave.

A Chinese fisherman was shot dead in another confrontation in the Scarborough area last year.

But the Chinese foreign ministry official reiterated that it was the Chinese government's position to develop a better bilateral relationship between the two countries.

NAVY Admiral Victorino Hingco inspects giant clams seized from Chinese fishermen,
ERIK ARAZAS

Chinese ambassador Wang Chungyi paid a courtesy call on Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona on Monday.

In an interview with reporters after the courtesy call, Wang denied that the 10 fishing vessels had been at Scarborough Shoal to poach.

She explained that the boats were merely anchored in the area to seek refuge because of the inclement weather.

Wang likewise underscored that there was a need for the setting up of a fisheries cooperation between her country and the Philippines over fishing rights in the waters off the disputed island. *AFP with a report from Rocky Nazareno and Donna S. Cueto*

'Reds kidnap to raise poll funds'

THE COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines is allegedly raising funds for its electoral candidates through kidnappings in Metro Manila, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

Police yesterday reported the arrest of Javier Zacate, a former mayor of Sulat, Eastern Samar, allegedly an active member of the Visayas regional party committee of the CPP-New People's Army Visayas Command.

Charges of kidnapping with serious illegal detention were filed with the Department of Justice yesterday against Zacate and Carlos Tizon, said to be an official of the CPP Visayas regional executive committee.

Zacate, 39, who is a candidate for mayor in the May 14 elections, is alleged to have financed the kidnap gang behind the March 8 abduction of Pen Chang Tan, a Chinese-Filipino lumber magnate from Antipolo City.

Tizon, who remains at large, is alleged to have masterminded the Tan kidnapping.

Tan was released last Thursday after the family paid a P6 million ransom.

The police arrested six alleged kidnappers but failed to recover the ransom money.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto said Zacate and Tizon became involved in kidnapping to raise funds for the underground communist movement and for the candidacy of Zacate.

But he said the arrests would not affect the impending resumption of peace negotiations with the communists as the PNP was only carrying out its drive against criminality.

In a report to PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza, Gualberto said the police failed to recover the ransom money after Tan's family stopped cooperating with them following the twin slaying of kidnap victims in Baguio.

Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Zacate was arrested Sunday night at his residence at 1547 Block 10, Lot 35, Sugar Town in Batasan Hills, Quezon City. He said police recovered stacks of communist documents and reading materials from the house.

Gualberto identified the six who were arrested as Michael Tuquero, 32; Wilmor Agbon, 25; Zacate's cousins John, 27 and Roberto Evardone, 34; Ricky Ocale, 31; and Christopher Balena.

Christine Herrera

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SC orders Erap prosecution freeze

By Cathy Canares-Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court yesterday extended an order restraining the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating or prosecuting deposed President Joseph Estrada for economic plunder.

The order, contained in a one-page decision handed down during an en banc session in Baguio City, came at the heels of the twin motions filed by Estrada's lawyers asking the court to halt all of the Ombudsman's efforts at building up plunder and forfeiture cases against the ex-president.

More specifically, the order bars the Ombudsman from issuing a resolution on the six plunder cases filed recently by lawyers and civil society groups against Estrada.

To date, there are nine plunder charges against Estrada filed before the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's resolution is supposed to either order the dismissal of the plunder cases or call for the filing of criminal raps as Estrada failed to submit counter-affidavits in response to the charges hurled against him.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban again inhibited themselves from taking part in yesterday's en banc session.

Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing who is on leave also did not participate in the session.

The status quo order was issued on Feb. 20 and should expire on March 22. However, the SC ordered it to "remain in effect" until the justices decide on the motions filed by Estrada's lawyers.

The tribunal then gave the Ombudsman a "non-extendible period" of 10 days to respond to the motions, which were filed separately by Alfredo Agabin and Cleofe Verzola, and by Rene Saguisag.

Agabin and Verzola filed a 36-page motion for reconsideration Monday asking the SC to halt the Ombudsman's pending investigation on the plunder charges, saying Estrada risks facing double jeopardy if charged in court.

The two lawyers argued that the same charges were hurled against Estrada during his impeachment trial.

Since the trial was aborted, it meant Estrada was not convicted, a consequence which they consider as "tantamount to acquittal."

Hence, Estrada cannot be charged again for the same offenses, they said.

Agabin and Verzola also complained about Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's alleged "strongly adverse" position against their client, a fact which they fear could result in a biased resolution against the former president.

ESTRADA

Ani stunned

By Michael Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday appeared stunned and said he had not expected the Supreme Court decision to extend the 30-day status quo order on Joseph Estrada's pending cases.

Desierto immediately ordered his staff to file a motion for reconsideration with the High Tribunal today to prevent further delay of the resolution of the six cases filed against Estrada with the Ombudsman.

"We will file a motion to reconsider the order of the high court, which further prevents us from resolving the cases until after the high court resolved the petition filed by Estrada's lawyers on Monday," Desierto said.

Desierto did not comment on whether he was outraged by the decision, but stressed that his office had "good legal reasons" to question the order.

"Even if we resolve the cases, there is no prejudice on the petitioner (Estrada). The SC should outrightly dismiss Estrada's motion for reconsideration for lack of merit," he said.

"The worst-case scenario is for the Ombudsman to file the charges in court. But then the Supreme Court can always restrain the Sandiganbayan from proceeding with the trial, so there will be no prejudice against Estrada," De-sierto said.

Desierto revealed that the Ombudsman's motion for reconsideration would cite three grounds.

First, he said, the SC could always restrain the Sandiganbayan from trying the deposed President whether or not the Ombudsman would initiate criminal proceedings against Estrada.

Second, Desierto pointed out that "it is very seldom that the criminal cases being handled by the Ombudsman are being restrained by the SC.Finally, Desierto said, that the petition (Estrada's MR) pending before the SC would not be mooted even if the Ombudsman files a case against Estrada.

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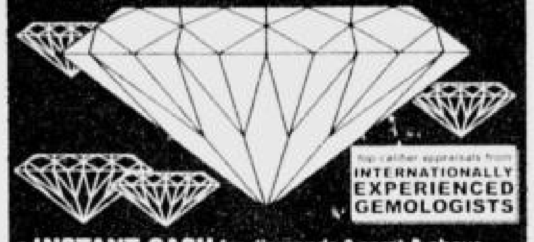

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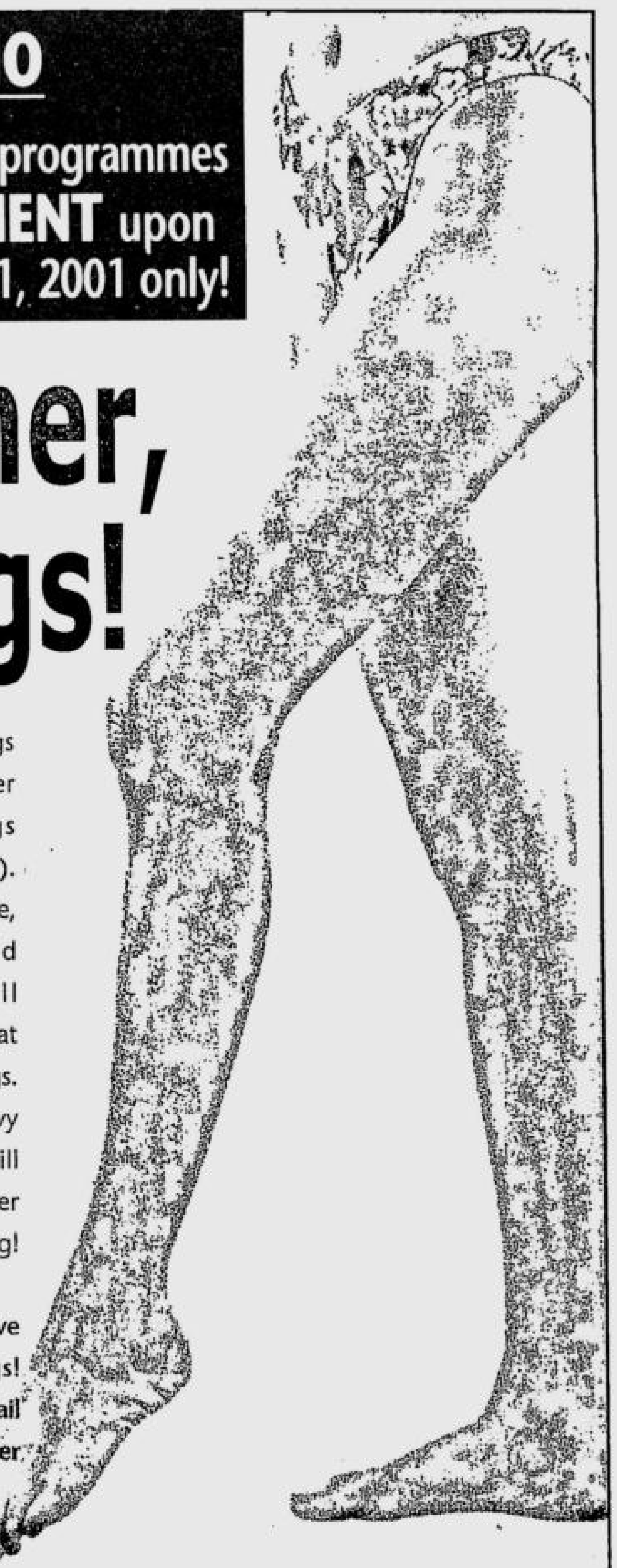

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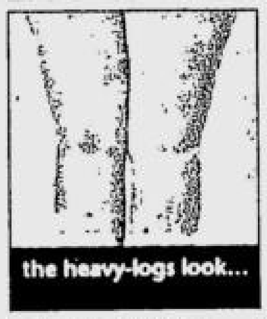

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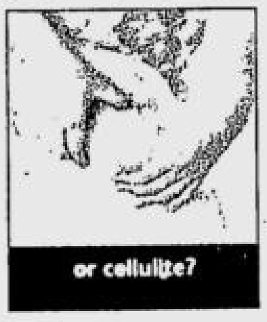

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Reject 'Erap-like' bets, urge bishops

By Norman Bordadora

FOUR Mindanao bishops have issued a joint pastoral exhortation asking the Catholic faithful to reject candidates who exhibit traits which caused the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to criticize deposed President Joseph Estrada before People Power II.

The pastoral exhortation for the 2001 elections, issued by the four bishops of the Davao provinces, asked the people to reject candidates who seek the interest of their family and friends and instead vote for candidates who are "God fearing and truthful to marriage and family commitments."

"Vote for the right people that are committed to the common good. Don't vote for those who seek only their own interest and that of their family, their business, their party, their cronies and *barkadas*," read the pastoral exhortation released this week.

The document was signed by Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao, Bishops Wilfredo Manlapaz of Tagum, Generoso Camiña of Digos, and Patricio Alo of Mati.

"They enjoy a good reputation in public and in private life. They are men and women of integrity and of good morals," the bishops said.

The CBCP joined Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin in calling for Estrada's resignation late last year after allegations of massive jueteng bribes and corruption were thrown hurled at the former president by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

The CBCP has likewise scored Estrada for his continued dalliance with women other than his wife, his association with known gambling lords and alleged smugglers, his drinking and gambling habits.

"Candidates must not only know how to read and write. They must be physically and mentally fit and emotionally stable to fulfill their duties of the office they are seeking. Their track record and performance in public service are the test of their competence," the bishops said.

"It is not their popularity or their ability to speak and sing well, to entertain and to give in cash or in kind," they added.

The bishops said a competent candidate is a good leader who can set directions and does not totally depend on advisers and consultants.

"He can unite people, draw the best from them and motivate them to act for the common good," they said.

The bishops added that the candidates Mindanaoans should vote for should be pro-Mindanao, i.e., those who would promote peace and development in the regions in southern Philippines.

Five Abus killed

ZAMBOANGA—At least five Muslim rebels and one soldier died in an hourlong battle near Patikul in Jolo on Monday, the military reported yesterday.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said the battle started when soldiers on Monday penetrated the thick jungle surrounding a mountainside hideout of Abu Sayyaf rebels on the island of Sulu.

He said intercepted radio communications revealed ten rebels were also wounded. Servando said the rebels retreated and the soldiers remain "in striking distance."

AP, AFP

Freeze toll hike

FORMER Speaker Manny Villar wants a freeze on all toll hike petitions pending the investigation of Monday's twin highway accidents that left scores dead and several more injured.

"If the operators of our highways which charge toll fees cannot even ensure the safety of motorists they should not even think of charging more," said Villar. He adds that the frequency of highway accidents as well as robberies on major tollways, including the South and North Luzon Expressways and the Coastal Road are "very alarming."

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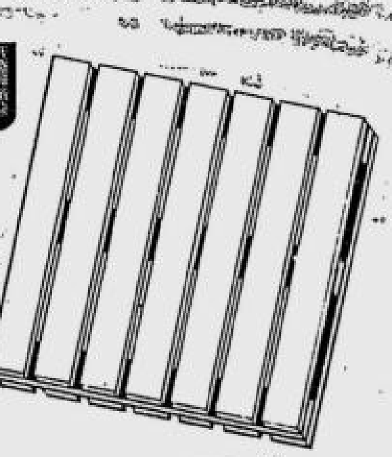

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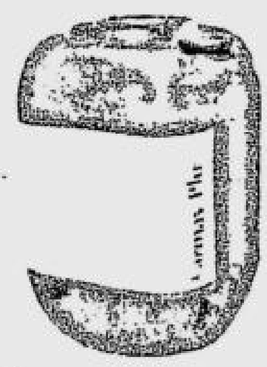

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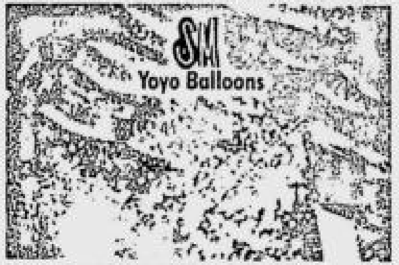

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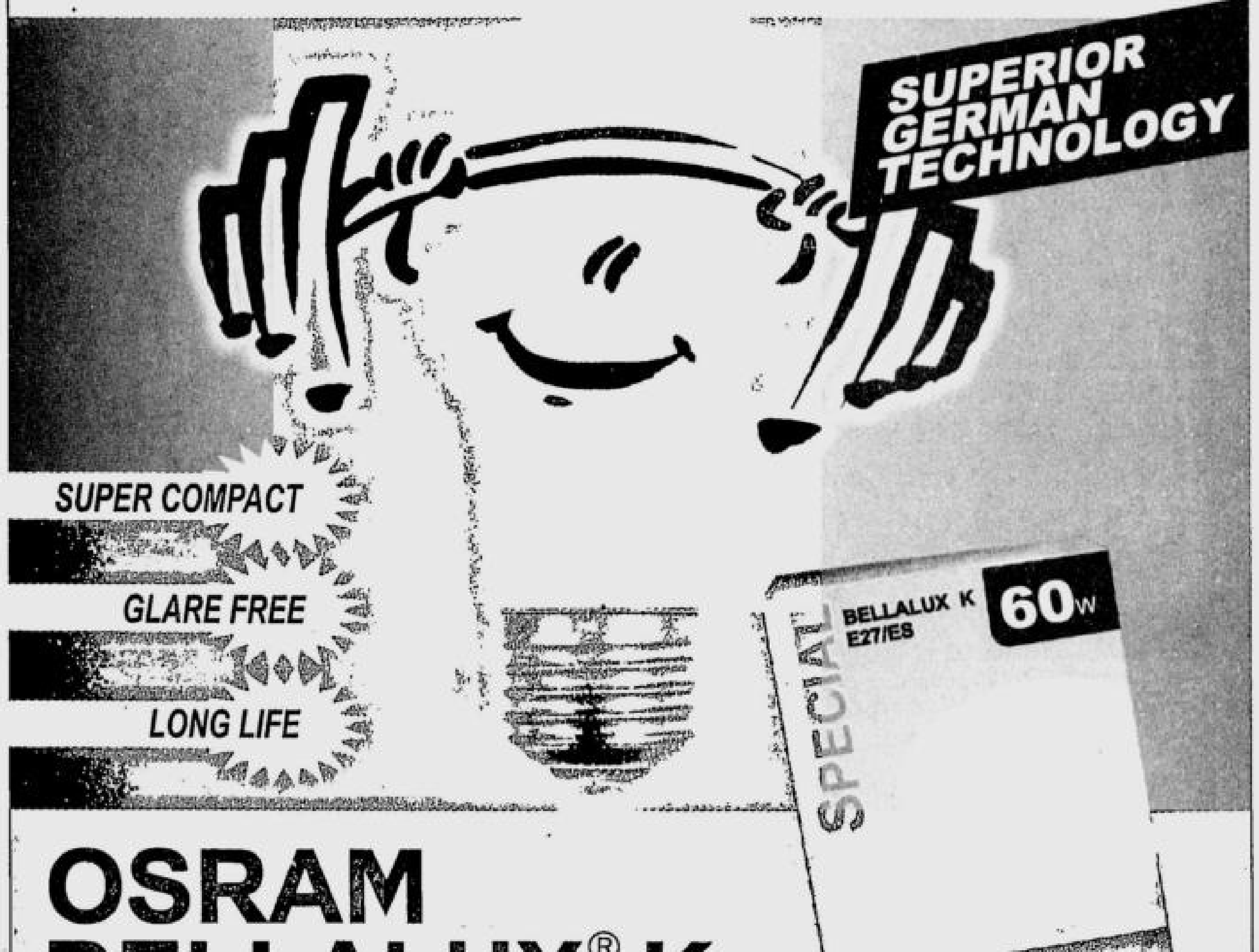

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Roco, deputy charged for two dismissals

By Agnes Donato

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco and his undersecretary have been accused of violating the Election Code for dismissing two department officials within the proscribed election period.

Assistant Secretaries Mario Bravo and Emmanuel Mariano filed a seven-page complaint against Roco and Undersecretary for Program and Projects Ramon Bacani before the Commission on Elections last March 17.

It was Bacani who wrote the March 15 memoranda advising Bravo and Mariano of their relief and possible reassignment to other government agencies.

In the complaint, Bravo and Mariano cited Section 261(h) of the Omnibus Election Code, which prohibits public officials from transferring or detailing any officer or employee in the civil service during an election period.

The election period runs from Jan. 2, 2001 to June 13, 2001.

The complainants also accused Roco and Bacani of failing to obtain the necessary approval from the Comelec before ordering their relief.

"The lack of prior written approval or absence of authority to make or cause the transfer or detail of complainants is shown by the negative certification issued by the (Comelec)," the complaint said.

The complainants also asked the Comelec to suspend Roco and Bacani while the charges were being investigated.

Violation of the Election Code provision is punishable by a minimum of one year and maximum of six years imprisonment.

Earlier, Roco said he decided to replace the two appointees of deposed President Joseph Estrada for lack of confidence.

He noted that budget and finance, of which Bravo was in charge, were so "critical" a responsibility that he wanted to "assign a person of my trust and confidence."

As for Mariano, who handled legal affairs, Roco said: "Inasmuch as I have a legal background and enjoy access to legal services, I would rather use such a position for a different area of responsibility."

Roco assigned DECS-NCR Financial and Management Officer Olivia San Pablo to take over Bravo's post and placed under legal division chief Felipe Millo the supervision of the Task Force on School Sites and Titling.

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Performance not appearance

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo prefers to see and read news articles that tackle her performance rather than her physical appearance, the Malacañang Press Office said.

President yesterday noted recent news articles that said she already lost 15 pounds in less than two months in office.

"The day media discovered I lost 15 pounds was the day I installed 600 *lumad* (indigenous) families in Quezon, Bukidnon, so I hope you will feature that rather than the 15 pounds I lost," she said.

Ms Macapagal last week distributed certificates to some 600 Manobo families in Mindanao, formally giving them security of tenure over the lands they have occupied for years.

The President stressed that she didn't mind the weight loss. "I like losing 15 pounds (because) I can wear jeans and t-shirts tucked in," she quipped.

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Oil price rollback next month possible

CONSUMER and Oil Price Watch chair Raul T. Concepcion yesterday said local oil companies would not pursue price hikes this month and instead may be able to roll back prices in April.

In late February, Concepcion forecast a 19-centavo-per-liter increase in oil prices that "would likely take effect on March 19."

The industrialist had said the projected increase in crude prices from January to February and the restoration of the 3-percent oil tariff would jack up prices.

Yesterday, Concepcion said a projected decrease in Dubai crude prices in April would lower local prices by 34 centavos per liter.

"Deducting from this the 14 centavos under recovery of the oil companies in March, we still have a reserve balance of 20 centavos," he said.

He said, in that case, the normal thing to do is to roll back prices, but he declined to predict if the oil companies would do so.

Concepcion said if the decline in Dubai prices would continue in April, "there may be a price rollback, but let us cross the bridge when we get there."

He said the 20-centavo balance would offset for the rest of the month the expected increase in crude prices due to the decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut down production.

The Opec decided over the weekend to reduce production by a million barrels per day.

As of March 19, the average price of Dubai crude decreased by $1.03 in March at $23.77 per barrel compared to that in February at $24.80 per barrel.

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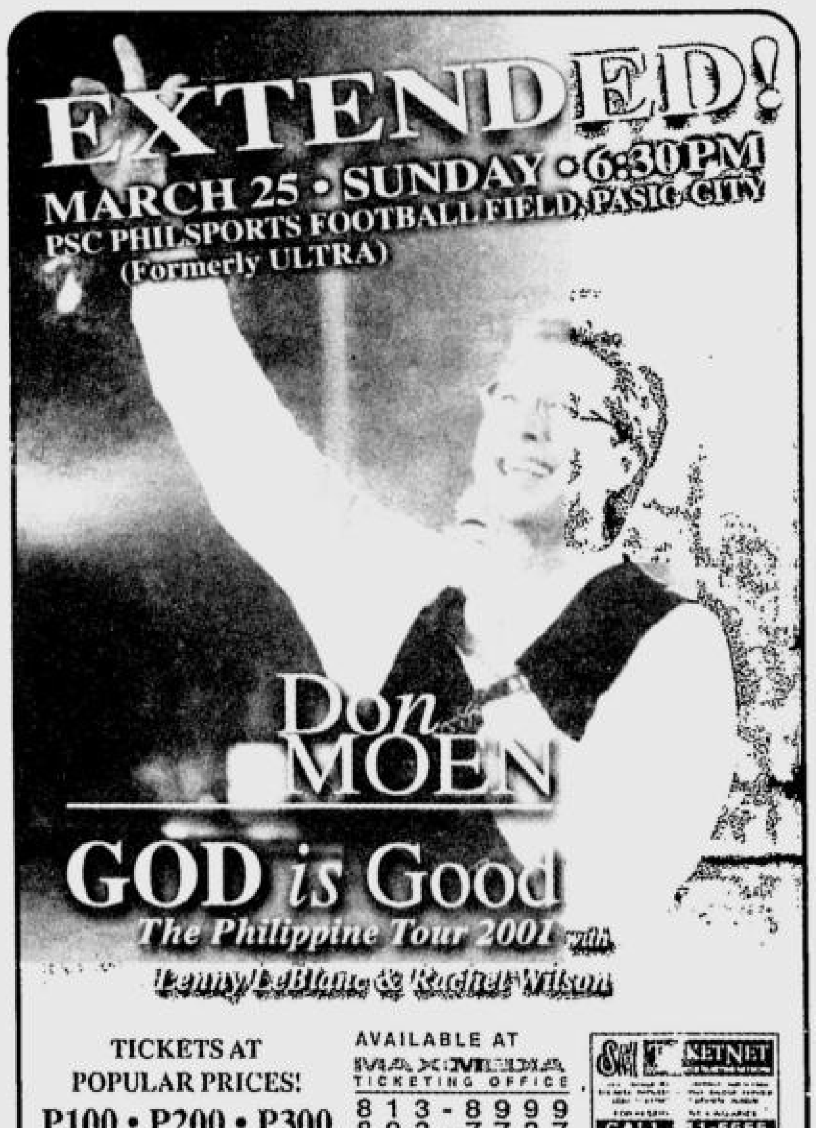

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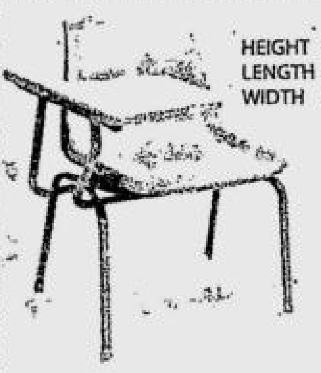

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Gloria: Let PCGG go after Irene loot

(From page A1)

coordinate with the German or Swiss authorities. And she would not be the one to take direct responsibility for this.

"The best way to make anything fail is to have so many cooks that you don't know who is responsible. So there must be somebody responsible, and they may seek support from other departments if they need to," she said.

"You really cannot have all of these hodge podge where everybody is in . . . you know. They say the best way to make anything not work is form a committee," she further explained, openly expressing irritation at the question.

Not taken seriously

The PCGG is "not taken seriously" by other governments, according to Dr. David Chaikin, an anti-money laundering expert and lawyer of Reiner Jacobi, who was the first to expose the existence of the Irene account.

The PCGG had also been criticized before for its reliance on the response of Swiss officials who were later believed to have lied on the 885931 accounts, allegedly owned by Irene.

Still, the President will not take an active part in the investigation.

She said she just asked the PCGG to report on the investigation last week.

"And they are supposed to pursue the investigation. They're supposed to pursue the leads that were coming out in the papers," she said.

While the PCGG claimed it had already asked for the evidence against the Aranetas from the German authorities, the German officials said that this had not yet been done.

No reaction

The President had no reaction to this.

Chavez said Ms Macapagal's response was "dampening."

"It stifles enthusiasm. The speed-*bagal* (slow) attitude of this government is beginning to show," he said.

"It will botch up an extremely rare opportunity of redemption for the Filipino people," he said.

Chaikin said the German government expected the Philippine government to ask for the material evidence on the laundering attempt. It also expects that the Philippine officials would be ready to offer help in the matter of identifying Irene based on the passport she had presented to Deutsche Bank, and in providing documentary evidence on the ill-gotten nature of their wealth.

Passing the buck

"Malacañang doesn't seem to care about the Marcos wealth. It is just passing the buck. They have expressed no real interest," Chaikin rued.

"It's a shame. They would rather this matter all go away, so they don't have to deal with it," he said.

Chaikin said this could have been the test for the Macapagal administration if it was really serious about its promise to fight corruption.

"This has occurred under her watch. And what do they do? They squib," he said.

"This administration's attitude is no better than that of the Estrada administration. They're all afraid of what they might find out," he added.

Senate inquiry

The Senate inquiry, Pimentel said, will give the youngest Marcos daughter an opportunity to air her side on the alleged bank account.

"In the wake of the Araneta couple's reported attempt to launder the alleged $13.2-billion bank account despite an existing court-ordered freeze, we deem it necessary to reopen the inquiry on the Marcos' hidden wealth," Pimentel said in a statement. "We have to get to the bottom of this and find out the truth."

Pimentel also denied Chavez's claim that the committee had been sleeping on its job in search for the Marcos wealth when it failed to verify Jacobi and his lawyer Chaikin's tip in April last year that Araneta allegedly transferred cash she had with the Union Bank of Switzerland to two banks in Liechtenstein and Luxembourg.

He said he had requested the PCGG and the Philippine Embassy in Germany to look into the alleged money-laundering transactions that were reported in the German media.

Pimentel said the embassy told the committee that Chaikin's information was baseless.

Pimentel also invited Jacobi anew to come to Manila to testify before the committee this time on the Araneta account.

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Group wants to clone Jesus for 2nd coming

(From page A1)

Aptly called "The Second Coming Project," the plan has drawn ethical and theological questions and hilarious reactions from Church leaders here.

"How sure are they that what they will clone is the DNA of Jesus Christ, and not of Judas Escariot?" asked Episcopalian priest David Tabo-oy of the Church of the Resurrection here.

Tabo-oy was reacting to the information biotech activists forwarded to the INQUIRER about the project.

One of the proponents, Robert Anderson, said the project intends to clone Jesus, using techniques pioneered at the Roslin Institute in Scotland, by taking an incorrupt cell from one of the many Holy Relics of Jesus' blood and body that are preserved in churches throughout the world.

It will then be inserted into an unfertilized human egg, "through the now-proven biological process called nuclear transfer," said Anderson in the introduction to the project.

"The fertilized egg, now the zygote of Jesus Christ, will be implanted into the womb of a young virginal woman (who has volunteered of her own accord), who will then bring the baby Jesus to term in a second Virgin Birth," said Anderson.

Anderson claims to be a member of the Physicians and Scientists for Responsible Genetics. The group's given address is P.O. Box 295, Berkeley, California.

If all goes according to the ambitious plan, the birth of the cloned Jesus will be on Dec 25 this year, "thus making Anno Domini 2001 into Anno Domini Novi 1, and all calendrical calculations will begin anew."

This means the implanting of the "Jesus zygote" into the womb of the volunteer virgin woman must happen sometime in April.

The project proponents say they will use the same cloning techniques which produced Dolly, the sheep Scottish scientists cloned in 1997. They claim that throughout the Christian world are churches that keep relics of Jesus' body, including his blood, his hair and foreskin which contain the cells from which the scientists will extract the DNA.

"No longer can we rely on hope and prayer, waiting around futilely for Jesus to return," said the project background information found in the www.clonejesus.com website.

"We have the technology to bring Him right now: there is no reason, moral, legal or Biblical, not to take advantage of it."

Doubts

Like Tabo-oy of the Episcopal church, Bishop Allan Ray Sarte of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)-Northern Luzon Jurisdiction doubts how the scientists can be sure that the blood they will use is really that of Jesus.

A theology professor, Rev. Luna Dingayan, president of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary here, also describes the scientists behind the Second Coming Project as "too presumptuous."

For one, hardly anyone except his disciples believed Jesus was a messiah when he died, says Dingayan, who also teaches history of Christianity.

He says people began to be preoccupied with the "holy relics" of Jesus only after the 4th century A.D. when Rome's Constantine the Great decreed that Christianity would be the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Christianity thereafter became popular, becoming even a status symbol for some. At this point, folk religion, with roots from Greek and Roman mythologies, came into the scene, eventually prompting interest in the supposed holy relics of Jesus Christ such as his crown, says Dingayan.

So no one can really say whether the supposed relics of Jesus are real, he says.

Granting that the scientists will get the needed DNA from the real blood of Jesus, this is no guarantee that the cloned Jesus will be the same Jesus Christ who taught about love of God and love of one's neighbor 2,000 years ago, says Dingayan.

The Bible talks about the Second Coming of Jesus, and some fundamentalist religions have been predicting the end of the world during which Jesus Christ will come again to save believers.

The last time that Jesus would supposedly come was when the world would end at the start of year 2000.

But the world did not end, and no Jesus came.

"So with modern science lending credence to this whole thing about Jesus' Second Coming, scientists are now saying they can deliver Jesus in the flesh—through cloning," said Dingayan.

Learning that the Second Coming Project proponents are soliciting contributions and donations for the quest for a cloned Jesus, Dingayan says the project proponents can really cash in on the gullibility of those who want Jesus delivered to them in the flesh.

"Playing gods, they want to create a Jesus whom they can 'sell' to gullible Christians," he said.

"Surely, there are billionaires out there who can donate money to this project."

Soliciting donations

The project proponents have a way of luring Christians who believe that the Second Coming of Christ will finally save the world from sin.

"To save the world from sin, we must clone Jesus to initiate the Second Coming of the Christ," said the project background information.

"Time is short!" it said. "We must have a fertilized Jesus zygote no later than April 2001 if Jesus is to come to term on the predicted date."

UCCP's Sarte, Dingayan and Tabo-oy said human cloning violates God's laws because the process intervenes in the natural order of creation.

Dingayan talks about the Second Coming of Jesus in another vein.

"The biblical passage about Jesus' Second Coming is not about a physical Jesus," he said. "It is about the coming of a new heaven and new earth where people are re-born in Christ. If this happens, every one can be a clone of Jesus by living Christ's life and teachings."

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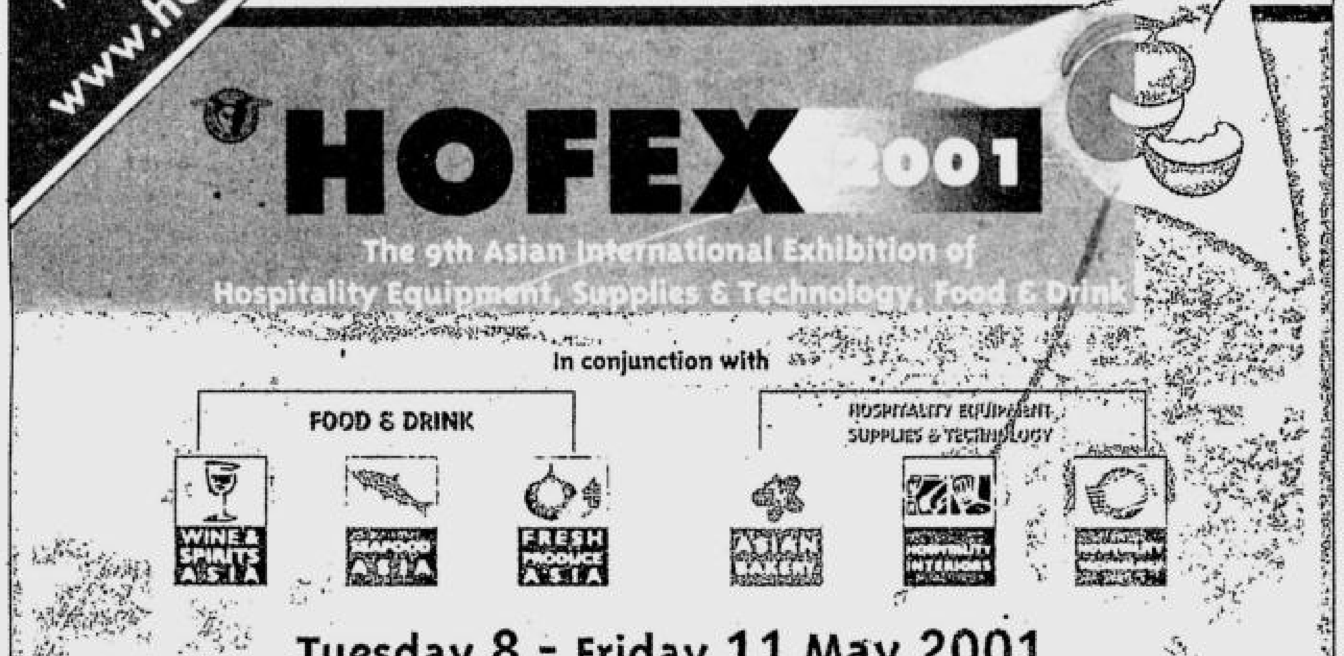
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Chief censor faces Sin's ire, GMA's ax

(From page A1)

The President announced her plan to fire MTRCB chair Nick Tiongson before she met with him in Malacañang.

Presidential Chief of Staff Renato Corona said the President was already reviewing a list of probable replacements, but gave no details.

Tiongson has drawn the ire of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and conservative Catholic women's groups for his stand on the Jose Javier Reyes' controversial movie "Live Show."

Catholic women's groups have brought their complaint before the President who is now being pressured to fire Tiongson.

Tiongson said that he met with Cardinal Sin last Saturday, and that it was a "traumatizing" experience. He would not elaborate.

Tiongson met with the President late afternoon but came out last night sounding like he was ready to make a monumental decision.

He said he would announce everything in a press conference today.

"There are decisions that I have to make. I have to think about things tonight," he said.

He said it was he who sought the meeting with the President yesterday.

He was with director Behn Cervantes yesterday when he met Ms Macapagal.

Tiongson said he could not recall the film because it had been approved by his predecessor Armida Siguion-Reyna.

Reviewing Siguion Reyna's decision will be against the rules, according to Tiongson.

"There are certain procedures to be followed. You respect that, otherwise there will be chaos," he said.

Tiongson said it was also against his convictions to recall the film because it was a "legitimate" movie and not a "*bomba* (bold)" film.

"*Natatakot ako siempre. Nasa* extreme right *yung ipagagawa sa akin. Hindi ko talaga magagawa yun* (I'm apprehensive because what they want me to do is extremely rightist. I can't do that)," he said last night after meeting with Ms Macapagal and representatives of the Catholic Women's Groups led by Sonia Zaldivar of the "Anti-Porno Movement."

"It's against everything I've stood for in my life. And sure enough, that's what it turned out to be," the MRCB chief said.

He described the meeting as "very illuminating."

Disastrous

"You heard (Zaldivar) first speaking her mind, and she was very fervent about her own beliefs and convictions. It was clear that we would not see eye-to-eye ever," Tiongson said.

He said that he did not believe that a movie was *malaswa (salacious)* just because there was nudity or sexual intercourse.

"I don't think so. It depends on the context," he said.

Tiongson said the movie, "Live Show," was just part of a big message, and should be judged on its totality.

He said the film was about "*toros* and *toreras* (live sex show performers)" and not about "sexual relations."

"It is in fact a very depressing movie because what it shows is the desperation of the people who have to go into that kind of a job. It is a desperation that is very heavy on your chest," he explained.

"So if you go out of the 'Live Show' titillated, then you're sick, you're sick. Because it's a very depressing movie and I do not agree that it's a *bomba* film. It's not a *bomba* film. It's a legitimate film," he said.

Tiongson said the President was given a copy of the film's tape.

"She'll probably try and see it sometime," he said.

Tiongson said the Catholic Church's influence on censorship was "disastrous, disastrous."

"It's again a pull to the right. You know people have their own convictions and you must respect them. But I think what we should expect from everyone is an open mind," he said.

"We have a problem when people have closed minds.

You have a situation where you can never agree," he said.

Tiongson is expected to announce his decision and details of the meeting with the President in a press conference at noon today at the MTRCB office in Atlanta Building on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, Quezon City. *With reports from Leah Gatdula and AFP*

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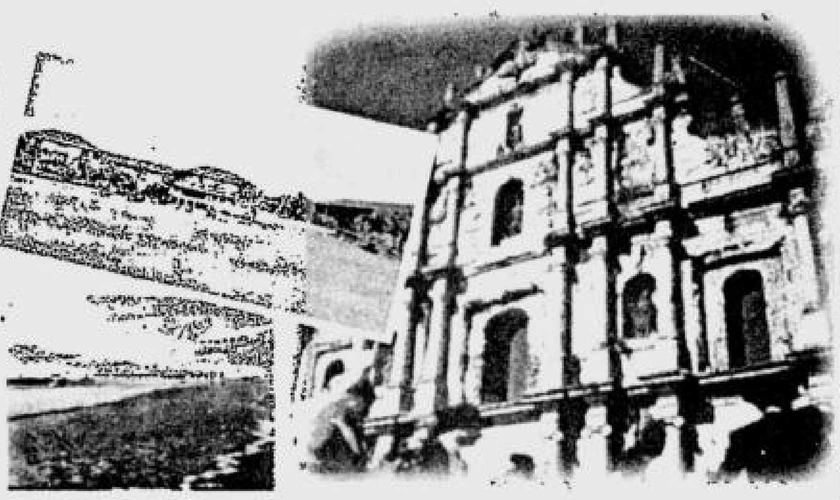
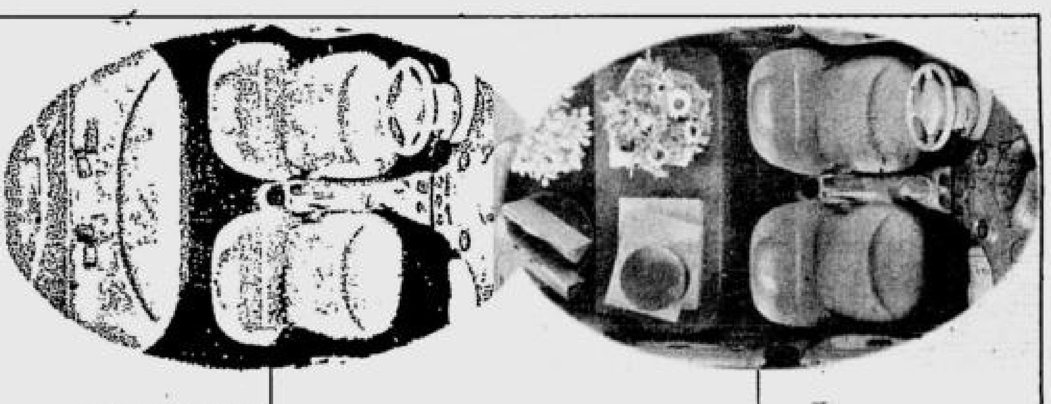
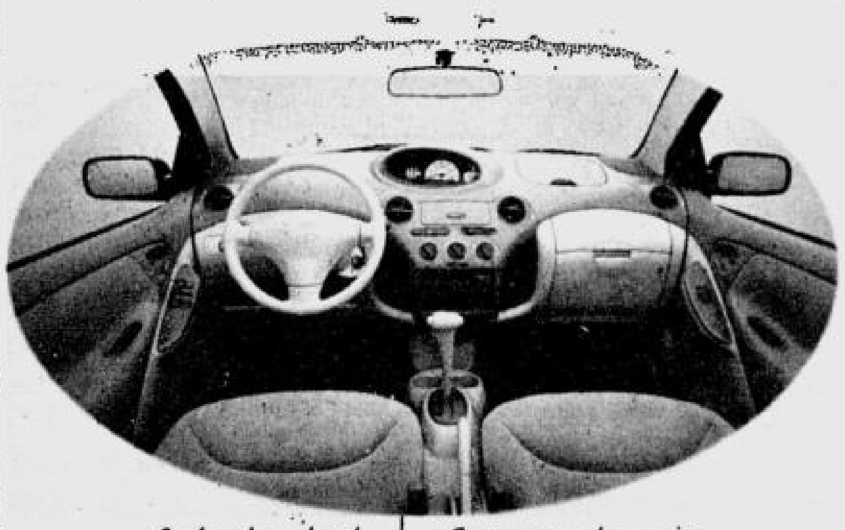


WHO SAYS BEAUTY IS SKIN DEEP?

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Sinking

EDITORIAL

SO Joseph Estrada has been toppled from power, but how much has the situation really changed in the Philippines? That was the rhetorical question posed not by Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew but by the Singapore-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) as it analyzed the results of its latest survey on corruption in 12 Asian countries.

And if there is a suggestion of disappointment, frustration or rebuke in the question, the PERC has a very good reason for it. According to this year's survey of 700 expatriate businessmen, the Philippines is down there among the most graft-ridden countries of Asia, with a rating of 9 on a scale of 10, where a lower score means a lower incidence of corruption in the perception of the respondents. Only Vietnam with 9.75, Indonesia with 9.5 and India with 9.25 got worse ratings. At the opposite end were Singapore with 0.83, Japan with 2.5 and Hong Kong with 3.77, the only countries that merited what may be called passing marks.

And not only did the Philippines do very poorly in comparison with Asia's cleanest countries, it was also sinking lower and lower with each passing year in the estimation of foreign businessmen. A similar PERC survey done in 1999 put the country at 6.71 in the corruption index while another one done last year had it sliding down to 8.67.

In the 2001 survey, the PERC put the Philippines in the same category as Thailand which got a rating of 8.55. In these two countries, the firm said, "corruption is a serious problem but no one seems to be in a big hurry to change the system." People, and especially their leaders, "seem to shrug off the problem as just the way things are." It takes a really big scandal to move the government to action.

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona quickly tried to deflect blame for the Philippines' unsavory reputation among foreign businessmen, saying the Macapagal administration has only been in office for two months. "Perhaps (PERC is) referring to the previous administration," he said.

Certainly it's a bit too early to judge the Macapagal administration. But even if that verdict was largely influenced by the pervasive graft and corruption of Estrada and his mistresses and cronies, there can be no mistaking the impatience of foreign businessmen with the way the new administration is dealing with the problem of corruption.

Such impatience can't be explained solely by the long and laborious process of bringing Estrada to court. The businessmen can be presumed to understand this. Most likely their impatience stems from the administration's tendency to wink at some suspicious transactions that came to light early in its term, involving people who helped put Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in power, such as her supporters in the military. In fact, beyond the rhetoric about making transparency an administration policy and minimizing corruption "to a degree as to be tolerable to the civic conscience of the community and to constitute no hindrance to economic growth," as Ms Macapagal said the other day, the new administration has shown little indication that it is ready to tackle the problem decisively. On the contrary, it has even continued the old practice of giving away billions of pesos in congressional pork barrel which has been shown time and again to be a rich source of kickbacks and grease money for lawmakers and other public officials.

How then can the country improve its image? The PERC says it would help greatly if the country had a legal system that is able to fight the problem effectively, a government that is leading the cleanup effort and a citizenry that frowns on corrupt practices. The Philippines apparently flunks on all three counts in the eyes of foreign businessmen. The Macapagal administration has to do a lot more than just point its finger at the previous administration if it intends to reverse that unflattering perception.

Threats of silence

FOREIGN COMMENT

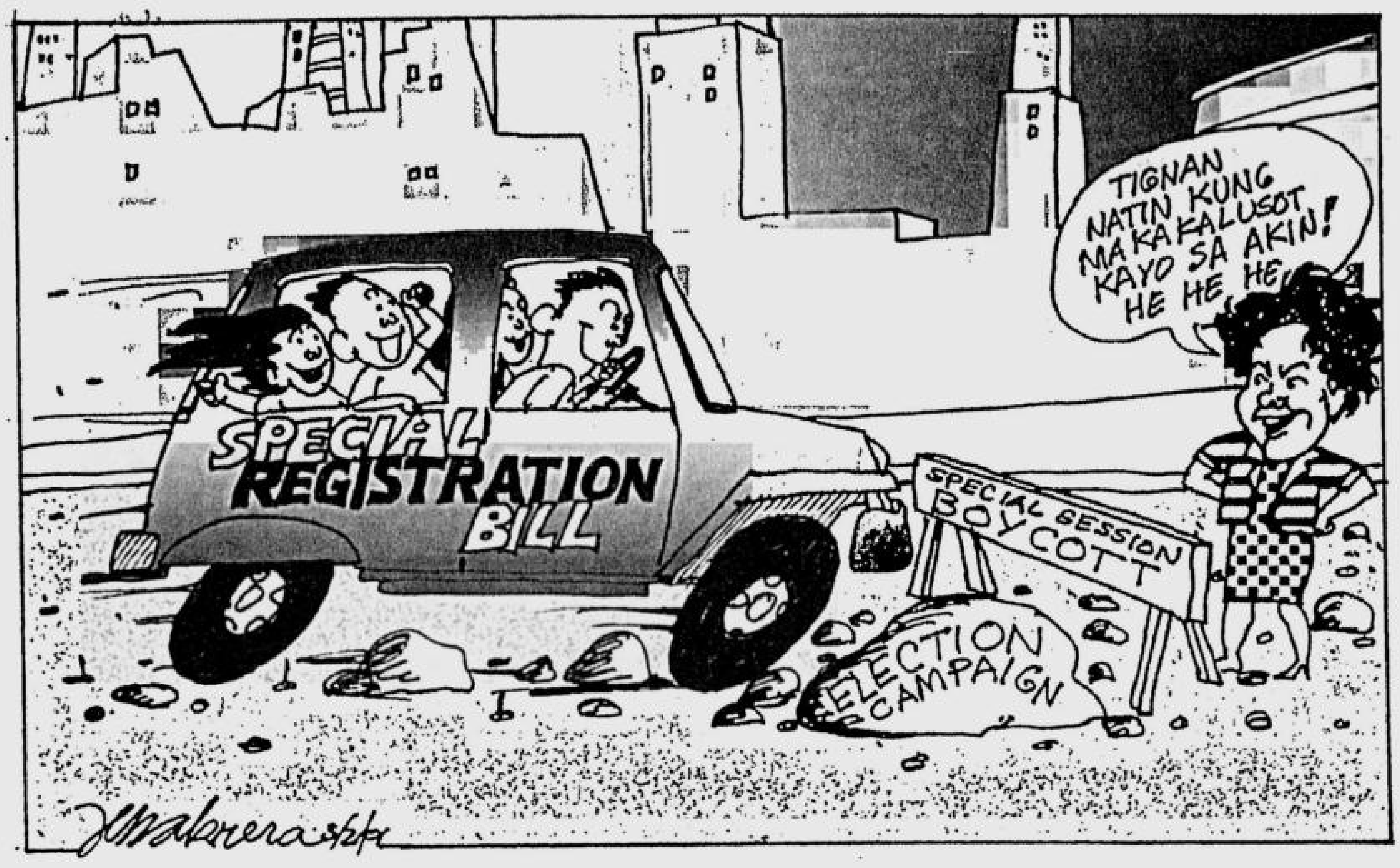
THERE'S a fallacy that many of us fall into whenever another episode of violence erupts at one of the nation's schools.

We generalize. We do it because we want to draw conclusions, to learn lessons. We want to imbue such events with meaning, rather than think something so horrible could happen to no purpose.

But every incident seems to happen for its own reasons—reasons that are difficult to fathom, even for the perpetrators.

The lesson is this: When a kid threatens violence, don't ignore it. Young Andy Williams had told his few friends repeatedly that he was going to get a gun and start shooting people. In at least one instance, he told an adult. No one took the slight, passive boy seriously.

Someone should have. And so should we all, whenever someone talks like that. Sure, most of the time kids are just talking. But as we've just been horribly reminded, sometimes they're not. *The State (Columbia, South Carolina)*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Our hordes of lawyers don't know election laws

(*Continued from yesterday*)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS is a discussion on pertinent election laws, enumerated in yesterday's column by former Comelec Chair Ramon Felipe Jr., that authorize the poll body to hold a special registration of voters. Congress, the executive department and the judiciary, not to say the Commission on Elections, are overflowing with lawyers but they are going to spend time and scarce money for a special session of Congress (it started yesterday) to pass an amendatory law that will allow a special voters' registration, without first studying other similar laws that are already existing. Specifically, these laws are the Constitution; RA 6646, the Electoral Reform Law of 1987; RA 8436, the Computerization Law; RA 8189, The Voters' Registration Act of 1996; Comelec Resolutions 3284, 3306 and 3584.

Felipe argues:

"1. From the foregoing, it is clear that the policy of the State, as enunciated in the 1987 Constitution and RA 6646 and RA 8436, is that voters shall not be deprived of their right of suffrage.

"2. Said fundamental policy cannot and has not been repealed or superseded by the shotgun repealing clause in Sec. 51, RA 8189 because:

"(a) It does not expressly repeal BP 881, Sec. 29, RA 6646 and Sec. 28, RA 8436. As a matter of fact, there is no provision that continuing registration is the only system authorized.

"(b) It is axiomatic that repeals by implication are not favored in law, especially when it concerns a constitutional State policy.

"(c) By its very language, said repealing clause applies only to laws, decrees, etc., inconsistent with said RA 8189, which are merely 'repealed or modified accordingly.'

"(d) There is no inconsistency between the Continuing or Daily Registration under RA 8189 and Regular or Special Registration under BP 881, and the standby power of the Comelec under Sec. 29, RA 6646, and Sec. 28, RA 8436, since they are complementary to each other. Thus, the continuing registration is done daily in the office of the Election Registrar and approved every calendar quarter (120 days) by an Election Registration Board composed of the Election Registrar, a senior public school official, the local civil registrar or the city or municipal treasurer. Whereas, regular or special registration of voters is conducted by the Board of Election Inspectors, composed of three public school teachers, in each election precinct on a definite date or dates only, in the presence of watchers of the political parties and candidates.

"(e) The simple and obvious reason why Sec. 8, RA 8189 prohibits continuing or daily registration 120 days (one calendar quarter) before an election is that under Secs. 15 to 20 of said Act, the application for registration has to be approved by a majority vote of the Election Registration Board (ERB), which meets quarterly or every 120 days. Otherwise, if the daily registration is not discontinued 120 days before an election, said ERB will have no more time to approve or disapprove said applications within the calendar quarter before the election. On the other hand, in a regular or special registration of voters before the Board of Election Inspectors, applications are filed in the presence of the watchers of the political parties and candidates, who can immediately challenge any applicant, if not qualified.

"(f) The very language of said Sec. 8, RA 8189, "No registration shall, however, be conducted...120 days before a regular election," clearly shows that said prohibition applies only to the continuing or daily registration, which is the subject of the entire Act.

"(g) As is clear from public statements of certain Comelec officials and Comelec Res. No. 3584 of Feb. 8, 2001, it is the Senior Staff and Regional Election Directors (RED) who are dead set against said special registration because of the additional work involved. But the actual work of the special registration, as explained above, will be done by the Board of Election Inspectors in each precinct, and not before any official or employee of the Comelec. It may be relevant to state here that Comelec rank and file are on vacation in between regular and special elections and occasional plebiscites, while the Commissioners are occupied with a multitude of election protests, which they can hardly terminate before the next election.

"(h) As a matter of fact, in Comelec Res. No. 3584 promulgated on Feb. 6, 2001, Commissioners Luz Tancangco and Ralph Lantion voted to grant the letter-petition of Sen. Raul Roco to set a special registration on Feb. 17 and 18, 2001; thus proving that there is no legal obstacle to it.

"(i) Even granting, for the sake of argument, that Sec. 51, RA 8189, can be interpreted as having repealed BP 881 on regular registration on the 6th and 7th Saturdays before an election and the standby power of the Comelec under RA 6646 and RA 8436, still it should be liberally construed in favor of said State policy of not depriving voters of their right to vote.

"(j) In the ensuing elections after the adoption of the Continuing Registration in 1996, special registration of voters was held by the Comelec."

'Kalye'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

REY Abella told me the story. He had an out-of-town gig with Noel Cabangon, and what was supposed to be a two-hour performance lasted five hours. This was so not just because the crowd kept clamoring for more. This was so because the other musicians kept clamoring for more. The musicians, performers who had gone the route of folk houses, Shakey's, and Hong Kong and Japan during the last three decades and had descended on Noel's gig to jam, could not believe there was actually someone who sang like him. Which was to say, better than them, something few musicians readily acknowledged.

"Where have you been hiding him all this time?" they asked.

But it's true, Rey said, reflecting on the experience. We've gotten so used to having Noel there, we've taken him for granted. We've gotten so used to factoring in talent, we've forgotten how good he really is. It's gotten so that it takes other people to show us the sense of delight we really ought to feel when hearing him sing. It's gotten so that it takes other people to remind us of the sense of wonder we ourselves felt when we first heard him sing.

I couldn't agree more. The first time I heard Noel sing was under not very ideal circumstances. It was way back in the 1980s, shortly after the Edsa Revolution. There was a political forum in UP, and during the break Noel was asked on the stage to sing a couple of songs. It was a pretty dominating stage, and Noel, who did not cut an equally dominating figure, seemed to be drowned by it. But not after the first notes escaped his mouth. I could not understand how such powerful lungs could reside in so frail a body.

But it wasn't just a strong or resonant voice that made him stand out—other singers had stronger and more resonant voices. It was that though he was singing to a crowd, he made you feel like he was talking to you personally. That is the spark that separates the merely talented from the gifted singer. The ability to single you out from among a faceless mass and aim straight for your heart. The crowd that gathers every Wednesday evening at Bistro '70s gets a little of that every time. Sometimes they are loud, sometimes they are hushed, but they rarely leave the place unmoved.

I do not now remember what songs Noel sang the first time I heard him sing. I think one of them was "Awit ni Cänuplin." But I remember that his voice soared above the din that continued to hover in the room (to this day, I cannot understand how people can persist in talking about politics while such glorious sounds knock on their ears—that must say something about their politics) and held me in thrall. I do not remember at all what was said in that forum. But I do remember that Noel sang there.

I've since followed Noel's career as a musician. From when he and Rom Dongeto, a formidable songwriter himself, teamed up to form Buklod, a group that produced some pretty haunting music, to when he experimented with a rock band (Wen-A), to the last few years when he went solo. Turning professional, however, has not stopped him from singing in street corners, if you can call wharves and auditoriums, protest stage and NGO offices, street corners. He sees no difference between the one and the other. He finds the one the stuff of the other. He continues to sing in rallies and forums, in births and baptisms, in weddings and funerals, in book launchings and launchings of workers' groups, on TV and, well, the streets. As much as in places that help to keep body and soul together.

We were regulars of Pook Luntian in the late 1980s, when Noel cut his professional teeth there. Until he left under the most unpleasant circumstances. What happened—for his fans who still do not know—was that a group of cops once drank there and asked him to sing "Happy Birthday" for them. Noel obliged by singing Don McLean's "Birthday Song," which he thought would make their celebration more special. The cops, who obviously thought musicians were just live versions of a jukebox, did not appreciate the gesture. In fact, they took it to be a slight—"*niloloko mo kami*"—and threatened mayhem. The manager of the place asked Noel to substitute prudence for valor and make himself scarce. They also asked him to substitute his paycheck for the bill that the cops left behind.

The place has long closed down, but Noel is still around. I do not know what happened to the cops. You can only hope that their birthday rituals have brought them to a tragic pass in some dingy karaoke bar.

I remembered this in particular because I saw an interview of Noel on TV lately where the interviewer, noting that his songs were about the *kalye*, asked him if he took time to immerse himself in it to be able to write about it. Noel politely said yes—you cannot write about the *kalye* without knowing it. But if the *kalye* means not just the dirt road, littered with *carinderias* and beerhouses, that poor folk congregate in but the rocky one, littered with poverty and philistines, that musicians plod through, then Noel has no need to go out and soak himself in it. It's a road he has taken all his life. That's what makes his voice especially strong and resonant. That's what makes him single you out in the crowd when he bares out his heart. He knows whereof he speaks—or sings.

Those songs have formed an album that Noel will launch this Friday, March 23, at the Music Museum. It is his first since Buklod, or since 1994, a long time to come but worth the wait. The album is entitled "Pasakalye," which is a play on the words "*pasakalye*," the street slang for an intro to a song, and "*kalye*," a word that is a world unto itself. Noel's friends—and they are legion, from authors whose book launchings he has graced, to simple listeners whose cares he has eased—are giving it the reception it deserves. It can't happen to a nicer person, or one who has given so much of himself to other people. To whom much is given, they say, much ought to be expected. I say: From whom who has been received, much ought to be given.

I can only hope that after Friday, no one will be asking: Where have you been hiding him all this time?

Saguisag and Honasan, what happened to you?

COMMENTARY

Hector M. Tarrazona

BETWEEN Edsa I and Edsa II, some funny, not very funny, and crazy things must have happened to a number of people like Rene Saguisag and former Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

About 15 years ago, most Filipinos admired them for bravely taking their respective roles during the Edsa Revolution. They were an inspiration of the young and the old, male and female, half-men and half-women. Not a few pinned their hopes on them for a better Philippines.

Today, they still have some following. But they have transformed themselves from nationalistic idealists into men of confused common cause. As someone has said, they were yesterday's heroes and today's villains.

There are five things common to both of them.

First, they were among the fiercest fighters against the dictatorship, abuse and plunder of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Second, both are now supporters of another plunderer, former President Joseph E. Estrada. Why they hated Marcos then and love Estrada now is a big puzzle to many Filipinos. Until now I cannot figure out why Honasan is supporting Estrada. Is it because of friendship or money? All I can say is, "You, too, Mr. Honasan? I can't believe it!"

In the case of Saguisag, I can only guess that he is paying an *utang na loob* to Estrada. Whether it is the appointment of his wife to the Estrada Cabinet, fat legal fees, both, or something else, I really cannot tell.

Third, Honasan caused billions of pesos in damage to the country when he led two major coup attempts, which set back the economic recovery of the country, during the term of President Corazon Aquino. Similarly, without realizing it, as Estrada's lawyer, Saguisag has been causing billions of pesos in losses to the country due the perceived instability as a result of his defensive and offensive legal tactics. His moves and comments are just nuisance, but they scare the investors.

Fourth, for defending Estrada and lending their names to him, both have greatly disappointed their admirers and followers. Many are now condemning them.

During the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association convention on Jan. 27, 2001 held at Camp Aguinaldo, a retired general proposed a resolution to, among other things, expel Honasan from the PMAAA. Only the timely advice of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon not to discuss political matters during the convention averted the expulsion of Honasan.

Similarly since he became the lawyer of Estrada, Saguisag must have lost a lot of friends and admirers.

Fifth, both were present in the meeting of businessmen, media people and officers of the Reform the AFP Movement (RAM) on Aug. 1, 1985 at the Association of General and Flag Officers Building inside Camp Aguinaldo. That meeting was one of a series of meetings between RAM officers and different sectors of society. The civilians who were there wanted to know more about the RAM officers and find out if they were true and sincere. Among them were Cesar Buenaventura, Felix Bautista, Eugenia Apostol, Beinvenido Tan Jr., Bernardo Villegas, K. Licuanan, R. Arnaiz, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Jaime Ongpin, Ninez Cacho-Olivares, Santiago Dumlao, Rene Saguisag, J. Rocha and N. Tolentino. Saguisag was in the company of respected and prominent men and women.

The original RAM officers present were Col. Eugene Ocampo (PC), Capt. Rex Robles (PN), Col. Hector Tarrazona (PAF), Lt. Col. Eduardo Kapunan (PAF), Lt. Rafael Tadeo (PAF), Col. Jose Almonte (PA), Lt. Col. Victor Batac (PC), Col. Gregorio Honasan (PA), Lt. Gregorio Catapang (PA), Lt. Alex Pama (PN) and Lt. Pompeyo Limbo (PA). They were the first few AFP officers who came out in the open long before it was fashionable to go against the dictatorship of Marcos.

Had the movement failed, and had there been no People Power at Edsa, Marcos, who had all the power and resources at his disposal, could have easily accused us of plotting his ouster, and then have us imprisoned or ordered shot. And that goes for the civilians too. But the People Power Revolution succeeded in ousting him. The rest is now part of our history.

Using the same reasoning, had Edsa II failed, Estrada could have used all the dirty tricks to put Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in prison or even have her killed, along with the civilians and the military and police officers who allegedly plotted to oust him, regardless of whether or not there was indeed a plot to oust him. But Edsa II also succeeded.

The Filipino people opted to change Estrada because he was corrupt, immoral and incompetent. Therefore, any complaint or suit questioning the legality or constitutionality of the ouster of former President Estrada is moot and academic. In case of more doubts, the best reference and precedent is Edsa I. Saguisag and his client must accept the reality that Estrada lost to the will of the Filipino people, the people who had sent him to Malacañang and the same people he fooled and betrayed.

The testimony of Gov. Chavit Singson, Clarissa Ocampo, Edgardo Espiritu and other witnesses established and confirmed the fact that Estrada stinks. Saguisag and Honasan are punishing themselves unnecessarily by keeping him company. Now, it is impossible to deodorize the smell that sticks to them.

Whatever "*utang na loob*" they have to Estrada, Saguisag and Honasan have already more than paid them back. It is late, but it is not yet too late to abandon him. Abandoning Estrada now is good for their health, our health and our nation's health.

Hector M. Tarrazona, a Class 1968 PMA graduate, is a retired colonel of the Philippine Air Force, and was a member of the 11-man ad hoc steering committee of the Reform the AFP Movement.

Pinoy 'culture' and the torero

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I GUESS it's too late, going by news reports, to head off the firing of Dr. Nick Tiongson, respected scholar and former artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, as head of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Tiongson, barely warming his seat since his appointment less than a month ago, came under fire for "approving" the showing of "Live Show," which used to go by the title of "Toro," a movie about the lives and times of live sex performers, known to cognoscenti as "toreros" and "toreras."

I'd seen the movie last year at a preview and wondered what was taking the producers so long to release it to the public. Instead of joining the local boldie bandwagon, "Toro" made the rounds of international film festivals, 18 in all, earning plaudits along the way, certainly a strange development for a movie that's being condemned as sleazy and meant only to tickle the tastes of the prurient.

But the film, regardless of the title it goes by, is no cheap flesh flick. For one, it is written and directed by Jose Javier Reyes, one of the more "serious" (though not in person) accomplished directors in our midst and one of the sharpest social commentators in local filmdom.

"Live Show," it turns out, was approved by the Board headed by Armida Siguion Reyna. Is it Tiongson's fault that the whole hue and cry over the movie erupted after it was exhibited commercially?

* * *

I DO hope that President Macapagal and all those in her inner circle at least took the trouble to watch the film.

I would grant there is a lot of nudity in it. There is in fact flesh in abundance. There are also rather extended exhibitions of, uhh, sexual acrobatics. But then, we're supposed to be watching a movie about toreros and toreras, not choirboys and postulants. Then again, none of the sex show scenes even comes close to the typical calisthenics one catches two minutes into an XXX rated video. If it's arousal alone you're looking for, there are better ways to spend P50.

Because Joey Reyes' movie is not about exhibitionism or the sex industry or just sex. It is about the people caught in the web of these issues, the men and women who must make a living by displaying in public what most everybody else prefers to do in private. Are they any less human or humane because of their dehumanizing work?

In one scene, a local goon, who makes a living off crime, chides the torero-narrator for choosing his line of work. "My flesh crawls at the mere thought of what you do," the goon tells the torero. And yet, what is the more reprehensible of the two trades? Which is the bigger sin?

* * *

WHAT I found most objectionable about Reyes' movie was not that he dealt with lowlifes, but that he didn't show them to be "lowlife" enough. Most every character in the film has a heart of gold. There is the torera who supports an ungrateful family and dreams only of going to Japan. A couple try to leave the trade but are forced to return to it out of desperation. While the torero narrator still struggles with childhood issues of abandonment.

I love Reyes' movies because they are sharp and funny and almost always on target in their social commentary. So why, when he seemingly found a social conscience, did he feel he must jettison his great gift of humor for the dull appeal of sentimentalism?

There you go, "sentimental" is hardly a word one would associate with pornography. Pornography is when nudity and sex is the sole reason for the movie's creation. It is not pornography when the moviemaker seems so fond of his characters he makes all of them saints.

* * *

AT THIS point, we must ask why some people feel compelled to protect us adults from ourselves. And why, if movies like "Live Show" are so offensive to Filipino culture, they are so popular.

Maybe it's because, as my friend Marian Pastor Roces, a student of Philippine culture, puts it, Filipino "culture," before being wrapped in the hypocritical robes of feudal Catholicism, was "quite knowing about human sexuality…some quarters might say it was a sophisticated sexual culture."

Marian cites a quote from Pigafetta, chronicler of Magellan's voyage, who described Cebu society in the 16th century thus:

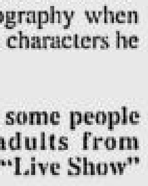
"These people go naked, wearing but one piece of palm-tree cloth about their privies. The males, large and small, have their penis pierced from one side to the other near the head with a gold or tin bolt as large as a goose quill. In both ends of the same bolt some have what resembles a spur, with points upon the ends; others are like the head of a cart nail. I very often asked many, both old and young, to see their penis, because I could not credit it. In the middle of the bolt is a hole, through which they urinate. The bolt and the spurs always hold firm. They say that their women wish it so, and that if they did otherwise they would not have communication with them. When the men wish to communicate with their women, the latter themselves take the penis not in the regular way and commence very gently to introduce it [into their vagina], with the spur on top first, and then the other part. When it is inside it takes its regular position; and thus the penis always stays inside until it gets soft, for otherwise they could not pull it out."

Comments Marian: "I think the blind spot in political discussion re these matters is that we assume that 400 years of Christianization has completely wiped out this culture…something of that knowingness is alive and well, despite all forces intent on regimenting it. Tradition (rising out of the four millenia before Islam and Christianity here) is a tenacious creature. Those who want to change it would do well to begin with a healthy respect, if only for this tenacity."

Is "Toro" a.k.a "Live Show" defaming and distorting Philippine culture? As Marian points out, it may in fact be accurately reflecting it.

Facts can change pretty pictures

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN I come across mud guards on trailer trucks and jeepneys that point to the left as the "Safe side" and the right as "Suicide," I wonder whether the reckless drivers of these vehicles are trying to be serious or funny. Though these messages are stale and corny, they recently set me off on a reflection on the writing of history. While textbooks and quiz shows insist on one set of dates, names, places, etc., events are harder to pin down because there are different versions and viewpoints involved. There is more than one way to see and interpret history. How the historian finds truth at all is his major challenge.

Tomorrow, March 22, is the 132nd birth anniversary of Emilio Aguinaldo and the day after, March 23, is the 100th anniversary of his capture at Palanan, Isabela, by the Americans. While I am not so keen on "celebrating" the anniversary of Aguinaldo's capture, we cannot delete it from our history.

Unfortunately, Erap's short and regrettable stay in Malacañang distracted us from many historical events after June 12, 1898 that should have been remembered in some way no matter how small. The centennial of the Filipino-American War came and went very quietly. Looking back on the past would help us make sense of the present as we chart the future. *Sayang*.

The New American on March 29, 1901 carried a headline story titled, "Aguinaldo now a prisoner in the hands of General MacArthur," containing a first-hand account by Frederick Funston that helps us imagine how Aguinaldo was captured.

The enemy arrived in Aguinaldo's camp disguised as prisoners of war being escorted by Macabebe scouts pretending to be on Aguinaldo's side. From extant photographs of the scene after the shooting, we can see wreaths on Aguinaldo's house. Aguinaldo's men were still tired—perhaps having a hangover—from the president's birthday party the day before. Nobody suspected that the group of long-haired *kababayan* with American prisoners were up to no good. It was the 1901 version of the Trojan horse and nobody in Aguinaldo's camp looked the gift horse in the mouth.

Funston related to the press:

"As the Macabebes approached the town, the troops of Aguinaldo's bodyguard, consisting of fifty men armed with rifles, were up on parade to receive the supposed reinforcements.

"After the usual military courtesies had been exchanged, during which time the Macabebes outside were using their best endeavors to make use of their knowledge of Tagalog in relating to the troops stationed in the town the account of their perilous trip through the mountains, and their adventures en route, the officers who came with the expedition excused themselves from Aguinaldo and his staff for a moment, stepped outside, and ordered their Macabebe troops drawn up into line, and commanded them to commence firing into Aguinaldo's troops.

"Three volleys were fired into the insurgents, who broke and ran in every direction. Eighteen of them were wounded and two killed. One Macabebe was slightly wounded in the attack. This was the only casualty in the expedition. The ex-insurgent officers, the five American officers and several Macabebe scouts immediately made a rush for the house which was used as Aguinaldo's headquarters, where he and his staff were assembled; and Aguinaldo, the president; Col. [Simeon] Villa, the chief of staff; and Santiago Barcelona, the official treasurer of the remnant insurgent government, were captured. They were brought to Manila this morning at seven o'clock. Major [Nazario] Alhambra was wounded in the face, jumped out of the window into the Palanan river, and either escaped or drowned. Two other captains and four lieutenants of the staff also escaped by jumping into the river from the windows of the headquarters. Aguinaldo, however, had been captured, and little effort was made to pursue the balance of the escaping insurgents.

"Aguinaldo, when first overpowered and taken prisoner, was furious and raved and swore at the deception practiced upon him, but finally cooled down and has since behaved in a dignified and manly way, as becomes one claiming such exalted rank."

In his memoirs, "Memories of Two Wars," published in 1914, Funston gives more details. When the Macabebes opened fire on Aguinaldo's escort, they killed two men and wounded the leader of Aguinaldo's band who was crossing the line of fire. Surprised, Aguinaldo thought the men were either celebrating his birthday or greeting the newcomers, by firing their guns into the air. He shouted from the window of his house, "Stop that foolishness. Don't waste your ammunition." Then before he could turn around or even realize what was happening Hilario Tal Placido grabbed Aguinaldo by the waist, pulled him to the floor under a table, and pinned him down. Funston's orders were to take Aguinaldo alive and Placido literally sat on Aguinaldo till the shooting was over.

I can imagine that Placido, being a fat man, Aguinaldo must have cursed and screamed under his weight. I would like to imagine Aguinaldo putting up a fight, but there he was pinned down by a fat man.

So much for our images of Aguinaldo being captured in a dignified way. The primary sources often change the pretty pictures we conjure in our minds.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

MTV-style, or a good-vs-bad one?

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

WE'RE devoting the bulk of this space to two letters from advertising-men-turned-political-analysts. The two discussions make up a fascinating snapshot of how new cultural tools—which advertising and media have unintentionally developed into—have become major factors for such a basic institution of modern society as representative democracy.

What would be interesting in the May 4 elections is the extent to which these new cultural tools, as well as new technology such as mobile phone messaging and the Web, have reconfigured politics in our country.

Joseph Estrada's toppling owes much to these new cultural tools. However, without these, Estrada's senatorial candidates wouldn't have any chance at all. Who would like to be under the aegis of a disgraced president?

No one among them really believes Estrada's line that the issue is about the masses against the rich. Check out the campaign posters of his candidates, and note that what each of them is essentially doing is utilizing advertising technology to sell a commodity: his or her image. Never mind the issues of Estrada and corruption, never mind the bigger issues of governance and economic policy. For them, it's a name-recall game.

In the case of the People Power Coalition's politics, the following two discussions propose different advertising tacks.

* * *

First, the response of Bong Osorio, president of Campaigns Advocacy and PR, the firm that made the PPC's TV commercial, to Billy Esposo's criticism of the ad published in this column Sunday:

"Thank you for the well-intentioned critique on the PPC advertising which was aired and obviously noticed by Billy Esposo—on its initial airplay! Despite Mr. Esposo's view, the TV commercial obviously hit hard enough for him to take the time from his busy Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) schedule to immediately write another caustic e-mail, a habit which he seems to have acquired since the people 'power struggle.' [*Osorio is obviously referring here to a view that Esposo and Copa, of which he is chair, have been critical of President Macapagal's administration as well as of the PPC since they have not been able to get their people into the new administration.*—**RT.**]

"He is right in surmising that this was intended for the 'youth' voters, whose psychographics indicate an affinity with the MTV culture. Mr. Esposo, who describes himself as an advertising 'veteran,' may have a rusty understanding of this segment since his stint in advertising was more than a decade ago.

"Be that as it may, advertising practitioners of the 21st century are only too grateful that we can now rely on more scientific and reliable measuring tools before and after airing any advertising material. We can predict ad impact, relevance, bonding and important, 'the intention to buy' of the target market through research methodologies that are accurate up to the 99-percent confidence level. This way we can go beyond gut reactions and biases.

"For Mr. Esposo's peace of mind, the 'name recall' ad he saw is only one piece of the communications program that he obviously is not privy to. Just relax and watch out for more to come, as we in the business always say.

"In the end, the best validation will be the results of the May elections. I suggest prudence in his dire forecasts, lest even his credentials as a 'political observer' become questionable."

Esposo follow-up

A second approach, not an answer to Osorio's letter but a follow-up of his earlier criticism, sets Esposo's proposed tack:

"Just to show you how badly run the PPC media campaign is, ever wonder why it is Dodie Limcaoco and Paul Aquino getting all the media coverage when they are not the candidates? This is the height of amateur hour.

"I was the director general of the 1985-86 Cory Media Bureau, the head again for the media campaign for the ratification of the Constitution in 1987 and was behind the media campaign for the 1987 Cory senatorial victory (22-2) and in all that time you hardly heard about us or saw us on TV. For us, the product was the hero. That was how we made 22 senators win for Cory—definitely a greater task than making a 13-0 today.

"One cannot say there was the Cory magic which is why we won the 22-2 senatorial sweep. Remember the senatorial election came in 1987, a full year after Edsa I, and with a lot of intervening factors already in the background like the series of coups, starting with the Manila Hotel siege, and if I am not mistaken, the Olalia murder.

"Theoretically, it is much easier to get a 13-0 in this election coming as it does a few months after Edsa II. The other side has no time to recover from the image of a bad government it just recently gave us. But because rank amateurs are running the show—and let's make this clear that I am not volunteering for the job but merely trying to call their attention so they can remedy the situation—the sins of the previous regime are not being highlighted. Nobody is attacking the vulnerable candidates of the LDP: Enrile, Honasan, Santiago, Angara, Mercado, Loi Ejercito, Lacson and De Castro even.

"Worse, nobody is emphasizing the values that the PPC candidates represent!

"When we won the 22-2 senatorial sweep in 1987, we went very heavily on a values campaign and contrasted the values we associated with the then Laban candidates to the negatives we associated with the then opposition led by Estrada and Enrile. Democracy vs. dictatorship, economic recovery vs. economic monopolies, them vs. us, Cory vs. Marcos, justice vs. abuse of authority and so forth.

"All the great media campaigns in political history managed to establish the contrast between the combatants like it paints a picture of black vs. white. Do you see that in this campaign? They cannot even competently define what they stand for—the values they represent.

"We cannot win this campaign without a big negative campaign that will exploit the vulnerabilities of Lacson, Enrile, Honasan, Angara, Loi, Mercado, Santiago and even De Castro. Again, it is the mark of a rank amateur who said they should not advertise the other side. You do not advertise the other side IF you do not have anything solid against the other side. But not in the case of these rogues who just last Jan. 16 drove the people to do an Edsa II!

"When you have something as solid as what we have against the opposition, you shout at the top of your voice from every public place, you grab every available headline and sound byte, you grandstand all you can and never for a moment allow the rogues to live down that moment they defiled the Senate of the Republic because that is the memory that will bring us to a 13-0 victory."

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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Mortal combat with forces of evil

AFTER THE Supreme Court decision on the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency, we can all finally settle down to the business of addressing the grave problems of the nation such as economic recovery and the attainment of peace in Mindanao.

The anti-Estrada forces have some unfinished business to attend to. Erap has announced that he will shift the battle from the courts to the polls, seeking vindication via his candidates for whom he is furiously campaigning before he goes to jail.

We don't know how his anointed candidates feel about this but the anti-Erap forces must oblige. Although their efforts are focused on the string of criminal cases being filed versus Erap, this ground must be covered too. We must not miss out on any and all means, since our judicial system has all too often failed us, to seek redress and catharsis for all the deep psychic wounds that Erap's depraved and criminal presidency inflicted on us as a nation and as a people. Our rejection of Erap and all that he represents must be unmistakable, unequivocal and indisputable and must be expressed in the total rout of his candidates at the polls so that we can exorcise from our body politic the demons of corruption, plunder, greed and criminal activities in the institutions of government. We must never, ever allow evil to rule our land and our public officials to violate and mock our aspiration for decent and responsive governance.

In this campaign we must do battle with the merchants of evil, the wiliest that PR money can buy, who have been polluting the airwaves and cloaking evil with a veneer of good and acceptability through lies, half-truths and twisted logic, capitalizing on the ignorance of the masses to lure them to support the very monsters that will devour them.

In the face of this phenomenon our voters education efforts will have to be no less than a mortal battle with evil.—**TERESITA D. BALTAZAR, executive director, Konsyensyang Pilipino, 265-C Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

Best expressed by young writer

"YOUNGBLOOD" N.G. Ayeng (March 8 issue) put it better, and more comprehensively, than almost anyone else I have read on the issue of those carping foreign commentators.

Her article elicited pride in all of us as Filipino patriots; pain at how we are often treated as punching bags by "clueless aliens"; and admiration for her—for her eloquence and spirit—as well as for all the youth like her who can feel and can act.—**ARMANDO S. BALTAZAR, 19 Annapolis, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila**

An artist's view of the truth

I WOULD like to comment on the letter of Fr. Robert Reyes last Feb. 15 and his thoughts about an editorial cartoon published earlier. I think what he feels for the reptiles is good, but what he says about the editorial cartoon which uses those creatures is something else.

The cartoonist was only doing his job. Pol Medina, the artist who drew the editorial cartoon, was very good in his depiction of *trapos* like Erap, using those creatures quite descriptively.

I can understand Father Reyes' feeling that the cartoon was a bit too much and that reptiles deserve better treatment. He is an animal lover. But I think he must also understand the artist's view of the truth which he endeavors to put across by way of a cartoon.—**RAYMUNDO ERICSON TUGADI, 148-A Tabora Apartments, Trancoville, Baguio City**

Unused to working with movers and shakers

REGARDING your article on the "walkout" of Department of Tourism employees to protest the "inhuman and dictatorial" style of Secretary Richard Gordon, I think these lazy employees just don't get the point.

I have seen Gordon operate. In the Jericho March and the other protests rallies, his army of volunteers brought their own trash bags all the way from Olongapo and picked up any litter they saw until the area was clean. At the Edsa Shrine last February, Gordon arrived at 5 a.m., and led the cleanup, urging people to help in cleaning the shrine. The people around were just happy to help. He is a motivator and his gung-ho, rah-rah style of making things happen put Subic and the Philippines on the world map. Anybody who has visited the freeport and Olongapo will swear to the cleanliness of the area. Subic was a showcase that indeed the Filipino can!

Those pampered, lazy employees who want to attract tourists and shout those catchy slogans should put their money where their mouths are. Their own front yard is a good place to start. They claim to be professionals yet they cannot tolerate being told to pick up litter like cups, candy wrappers and cigarette butts within the DOT quadrangle.

Every citizen should do his part in cleaning up the country. These DOT employees should even take the lead. They should stop whining and start working. It's time bloated and inefficient agencies like the DOT were shaken up to improve their mind-sets and performance. We need more movers and shakers like Gordon in government.—**RAMON PERNIA JR., Horseshoe Drive, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City**

Victim is still alive

I WOULD like to call your attention to the story headlined "Poll violence toll: 9 dead," which quoted an Agence France Presse report that hired henchmen of a local official killed mayoral candidate Amer Sarip in Pantao Ragat, Lanao del Norte.

For the record and for the information of your readers, particularly the people of Pantao Ragat, Amer Sarip is very much alive, out of danger and now recuperating in a hospital. The suspected assailant, Mayor Lacson Lantud, is a first cousin of the victim. The family council of elders is now handling the case.—**ZABEDIN M. AZIS, 20 Handel St., Ideal Subd., Fairview, Quezon City**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

INQUIRER

A gov't body in party-list poll

THE MARCH 7 column of Rina Jimenez-David regarding the party list aspirations of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) was interesting. I share her belief that MAD is an instrumentality of government and should not be used to prop a person's or a group's political agenda and that the party-list system is for the marginalized sectors of society.

It would be interesting to learn who has proprietary rights over the MAD logo being used in campaign materials posted in strategic areas of Metro Manila. Assuming that this logo is a registered property, I would then assume proper authorization was acquired for its use. The logo delivers a subliminal message of being official in nature and provides undue advantage to its user. What if the logo is public property, being a government project? Is a government office unwittingly being dragged into a partisan activity?

This is getting to be curiouser and curiouser.—**EMMANUEL L. PENSON, 19 Mt. Sajama St., Filinvest I, Batasan Hills, Quezon City**

Rising through hard work, not politics

IN REFERENCE to Neal Cruz's column last Feb. 27, 2001 and in the interest of transparency and fair play, allow me to set the record straight for false and completely erroneous allegations have been made against me.

I am flattered that the search committee considered me for the position of energy secretary. I am not a political animal with the clout to lobby for the post. Had the President decided to consider a career official like me, then I, with the help of my co-workers in the DOE, would have felt privileged and willing to continue our years of public service and serve under her leadership.

Although it is true that I was appointed as assistant secretary and later undersecretary during the term of President Ramos and was later reappointed as undersecretary during the term of President Estrada, I believe I was selected not because of any personal considerations or political affiliations. I would like to think that it was my qualifications and experience gained under then President Aquino which merited me the job of assistant secretary. I am convinced that years of hard work and being professional, rather than political, in my dealings with other government agencies and private and public sectors, made former Presidents Ramos and Estrada' decide to keep me in the public service.

Yes, I studied at the Ateneo de Manila and I am now residing in San Juan, Metro Manila. The closest association I had with the San Juan mayor is that we were schoolmates, not even classmates, way back in the 1970s. This fact was twisted and misused in the attempt to discredit me.

With regard to the allegations about the Power Reform Bill, let me assure you that I have not shepherded the unwanted provisions in the version under consideration by the bicameral committee. We at the DOE have been consistent in the position that the bill should contain pro-consumer, pro-competition and anti-monopoly features. This is why the department has withdrawn its support for a version that does not enhance competition or prevent abuse of market power, collusion and the like. This is borne out by the records of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the DOE itself.—**CYRIL DEL CALLAR, undersecretary, Department of Energy**

A president's duty, not a mother's privilege

A NEWS item last March 2 reported that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo refused to appoint her daughter Evangelina or Luli as a foreign service officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs because she was concerned that she might be accused of nepotism and this might give rise to a conflict of interest in the future.

I beg to disagree with the President for two reasons: First, Luli is not being appointed to a sinecure but to a position in the career service of the DFA for which she qualified by successfully hurdling two very tough competitive examinations. Second, the Foreign Service Act makes it mandatory for the President to sign the appointment papers of all appointees to the diplomatic service.

Luli is the only daughter of the President. She spent 17 years in school to earn a master's degree in diplomacy from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., one of the most prestigious universities in the United States for students aspiring to enter the diplomatic service. She took the prequalifying examination for the position of junior foreign service officer with some 3,000 examinees of which 2,000 qualified for the final examination. In the final examination, she was one of only three who passed with flying colors, obtaining a percentile score of 99.99 percent. It was a remarkable performance for a young lady fresh from college.

The position of junior foreign service officer is the first rung in the diplomatic hierarchy, Luli's entry point for her life-long ambition to become someday an ambassador of the Philippines or, perhaps, the first female secretary of foreign affairs à la Madeleine Albright. Is it not patently discriminatory to bypass her and appoint only the two other successful candidates? Is it not unfair and unjust to deny her the appointment solely because, by accident of birth the Macapagal-Arroyo blood flows in her veins?

Before assuming the presidency, President Macapagal took the oath of office pledging to "preserve and defend its Constitution, execute its laws and do justice to every man." The Bill of Rights provides that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied equal protection of the law."

According to the US Supreme Court, an office is property which cannot be denied to a qualified prospective office holder or taken away from the occupant without due process. The court also said that treating a person differently from other members of a group is denial of equal protection of the law.

These decisions of the US court apply to Luli's case. Refusing to appoint her to a job she has won through competitive examinations not only deprives her of property without due process of law but also denies her equal protection of the law.

In refusing to appoint Luli, her mother also violates her oath of office "to do justice to every man." President Macapagal fails to appreciate that the appointment of Luli is not the privilege of a mother but the duty of the President.—**DELFIN L. GONZALEZ, 18 Doña Ines corner Ormoc Streets, Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City**

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Taiwan seeks advanced US missile system

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Yeh

TAIPEI—Taiwan is pushing Washington to brush aside strident objections from Beijing and sell it the advanced Aegis missile system to face up to any threat from rival China, analysts said Tuesday.

But the sensitive issue is riddled with pitfalls, and Taiwan's defense ministry has deliberately kept a low profile saying only it "welcomes any bid to beef up Taiwan's defense capability."

Some 60 US lawmakers have signed a letter urging President George W. Bush to give "full consideration" to selling Taipei the advanced Aegis missile defense system, US sources said Monday. The letter comes ahead of annual US-Taiwan arms talks in April, at which local media expect Taipei to present a massive shopping list, including their hopes of buying four Aegis bearing destroyers. The United States remains the island's biggest arms suppliers, even though it switched diplomatic recognition away from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

"Taiwan feels a pressing need to acquire the destroyers," said Joseph Wu, deputy director of the Institute of International Relations at the National Chengchi University.

The previous US administration of Bill Clinton dodged the issue, which already has prompted a flurry of verbal warnings from Beijing, by deferring any decision.

But Wu said he believed "Washington would be straightforward in defending the arms sale."

Taiwan will be closely watching talks in Washington later this week between the Bush administration and visiting Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen. Qian is hoping to size up the Bush administration, which since taking over the reins of the superpower has taken a tougher line in its dealings with Beijing.

China opposes any arms sales to Taiwan, which it has regarded as part of its territory awaiting reunification since the two sides split in 1949 after a bitter civil war.

In a report released last week, Lieutenant Commander Hsu Ming-huang of the National Defense University said China had deployed at least 200 DF-15 and DF-21 missiles in the southeastern provinces facing Taiwan, and he expected the number to increase to 650 in the next five years.

The Washington Times reported last week that a US spy satellite has detected a newly completed Chinese missile base on mainland China opposite Taiwan.

"Taiwan's PAC-II anti-missile system is not sufficient to serve as a defense shield against any missile blitz by China," said Wu. Military experts say an attack launched by Beijing could paralyze the island's military command, airbases and major economic establishments.

China rattled the island's nerves in 1996 when the People's Liberation Army lobbed ballistic missiles into the shipping lanes off Taiwan's two major harbors in a vain bid to scare voters into not reelecting then President Lee Teng-hui for another four-year term.

Beijing fears the Aegis satellite anti-missile destroyer could lead to closer military ties between Washington and Taiwan, just as it is trying to discourage any moves seen as promoting independence for the island. "Beijing is worried the destroyer might be plugged into larger US military systems and turn Taiwan into a quasi-alliance partner," said Maj. Gen. Tyson Fu, director of the Institute of Strategic Studies under the National Defense University.

Aegis is a total weapons system that is centered around a powerful radar that can track more than 100 targets at a time and is capable of detecting and wiping out missiles, submarines, surface vessels and aircraft. It can also be used as mobile platform for the US-engineered anti-missile system known as Theatre Missile Defense (TMD).

"To ensure effective operation of the destroyers, the US would have to share its military information with Taiwan," Fu said.

Fu said he believed Washington "may give the nod to the sale of the destroyers viewing it as in the US interest" amid concerns that the military balance in the Taiwan Strait was tilting toward Beijing. "Washington has said maintaining the status quo in the Taiwan Straits is an approach to sustaining peace and stability in the region," he said. **AFP**

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Macedonia trains might on rebels

MACEDONIAN policemen inside an armored personnel carrier and those sheltering on its side fire on an ethnic Albanian guerrilla position in Tetovo, 50 km southwest of the capital Skopje March 19. Macedonian tanks entered Tetovo on the sixth day of violence that has fuelled fears of a new Balkan war. REUTERS

TETOVO, Macedonia—The Macedonian Army deployed tanks, armored vehicles and heavy weapons Monday to back up special police fighting to drive Albanian rebels away from positions in the hills overlooking Tetovo.

Two convoys of armored cars and tanks on transporters were seen trundling upcountry along the main highway northwest from the capital Skopje, with several busloads and truckloads of troops in their wake.

Upon its arrival in Tetovo, it took up positions in the Macedonian Army barracks, just at the edge of the town, where a logistic contingent of German KFOR troops had been stationed before their evacuation after coming under fire last week.

The barracks were peppered with gunfire Friday from Albanian rebels operating in the hills above Tetovo.

The military build-up was a sure sign that the government intended to step up the pressure on the rebels and flush them out of their stronghold on the hills northwest of the town.

The town and the surrounding valley echoed Monday with the repeated rumble of tank rounds and the crackle of machine guns and rifles.

A fresh breeze blew down from the snow-capped Sara mountain at the foot of the valley as onlookers gathered on the pavement outside the Hotel Makedonija on Marshal Tito Avenue, shielding their eyes from the sun as they peered up at the palls of smoke rising from the pine-clad slopes overhead.

Two houses from which gunshots flashed were pounded by tank fire from within Tetovo, as government troops trained their sights on the guerrillas from behind the covered market.

The icy mountain peaks in the distance and the rolling scenery, punctuated by tall, elegant white houses with red pantiled roofs, gave the landscape a holiday postcard aura, made all the more eerie by the pounding backbeat of artillery.

The streets of the town, which has a peacetime population of 200,000, were near-deserted, but an occasional worried pedestrian could be spotted scurrying along his way, keeping close to walls and doorways to keep out of range of the sniper fire which has dogged the streets since Wednesday.

Though the fighting has thrust them into the spotlight of world attention, the predominantly Albanian population of Tetovo showed a stubborn reluctance to answer questions. *AFP*

Mideast violence rages on

JERUSALEM—Attackers killed a Jewish motorist in a drive-by shooting and, in a separate incident, killed a Israeli security officer and made off with 60 automatic rifles from a kibbutz, in the worst violence against Israel since Ariel Sharon became prime minister.

In Washington, Sharon was planning to present his ideas for making peace with the Palestinians to US President George Bush in their meeting yesterday.

Baruch Cohen, 58, killed in a drive-by shooting attack in the Gush Etzion bloc of West Bank Jewish settlements, was buried in Jerusalem Monday, as neighbors charged that Sharon's decision to ease travel restrictions on nearby Bethlehem contributed to the attack.

Visiting the scene, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said, "My finger is pointed at one man only—Yasser Arafat." From Washington, Sharon issued a statement charging that Arafat's "Palestinian Authority is deepening its involvement in incitement, violence and terror." Israel reimposed the closure on Bethlehem, lifted just a day earlier.

A senior Palestinian official rejected Sharon's charge. Cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said Sharon's real intention is to retake areas of the West Bank and Gaza under Palestinian control.

In another incident, the security officer at Kibbutz Manara, an Israeli village on the Lebanon border, was killed, and 60 rifles were taken from the village arsenal. Security sources suspected that Palestinians were responsible, but police said their investigation was inconclusive so far.

Briefing US reporters, Sharon outlined the main points of his peace plan, according to aides. He said that first, Palestinian violence must stop. Then work could begin on a long-range interim accord including non-belligerency, security cooperation, Palestinian crackdown on militant groups and an end to incitement against Israel.

Sharon would offer a joint program for sea water desalination to overcome an acute water shortage, the aides said, and would give the Palestinians territorial contiguity, so that they would not have to pass through Israeli checkpoints.

In a speech in Washington before AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby, Sharon planned to emphasize that Israel will retain Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, including a disputed holy site sacred to Muslims and Jews and claimed by both. *AP*

India army looking into bribery mess

NEW DELHI—The military began an inquiry Monday into a bribery scandal that has rocked India's government as opposition lawmakers paralyzed Parliament, shouting demands for more resignations in the ruling coalition.

The closed-door probe by a three-member Army court seeks to examine videos taped by undercover reporters that showed politicians, military officers and bureaucrats purportedly taking money to facilitate a weapons deal.

Meanwhile, Sonia Gandhi's main opposition Congress party reportedly planned to make the tapes the central theme of a drawn-out crusade against the ruling administration.

Beginning March 24, the Congress party will begin a "long haul" campaign across the country that will include public meetings and protest rallies, United News of India reported, citing party spokesperson S. Jaipal Reddy.

Calls to the party headquarters rang unanswered early yesterday.

In Parliament, lawmakers from the opposition Congress and communist parties shouted slogans demanding more resignations from the scandal that has already forced out the defense minister and top officials from the party of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

"We want resignation; prime minister come clean, or else leave your throne," angry Congress party lawmakers chanted.

The lawmakers crowded around the speaker's chair in the lower house, drowning out attempts by speaker G.M.C. Balayogi to call a debate on the scandal. Balayogi was forced to close the house for the day.

The fallout of the video tapes—shot by reporters from the website Tehelka.com and made public last week—included the resignation of Defense Minister George Fernandes and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's chief, Bangaru Laxman. *AP*

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Britain enlists army in foot-and-mouth war

A FARMER carries two of his newborn lambs which are unaffected by the foot-and-mouth disease to his farm in Wigton Cumbria March 19. British farmers in areas worst hit by the epidemic urged the government to speed up the destroying of sick animals. REUTERS

LONDON—Britain's government announced early Tuesday that it was calling in the Army as its attempts to get to grips with the rampant foot-and-mouth outbreak became increasingly desperate.

The defense ministry said that about 100 servicemen would be deployed to farms to help with the grim task of disposing of the growing mountain of culled animal carcasses.

Agriculture ministry officials said the number of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease rose on Monday to 335, an increase of nine from the weekend.

0Soldiers were sent in as Agriculture Minister Nick Brown, in Brussels to meet with European farm ministers, pleaded with British farmers to cooperate with his officials over the controversial slaughter policy.

"If there is a fight or a war, it should be against the disease, not against each other," Brown said.

Some farmers have threatened a "rural revolt" if the government goes ahead with plans to cull up to half a million apparently healthy animals within a three-kilometer radius of infected sites.

Government scientists say the extended slaughter is needed to create firebreaks to prevent a secondary wave of infection being carried on the wind.

Brown was quoted as saying by the BBC: "I call upon the farmers to cooperate with the veterinary authorities who are working so hard to get this disease under control."

"We have difficult things to do, but fighting against ourselves will only make matters worse."

As the outbreak entered its fourth week, agriculture ministry officials said that about 300,000 animals have already been slaughtered, or are earmarked for slaughter.

The figure already represents more than two-thirds of the total number of cattle, pigs and sheep slaughtered during the seven months of the last big foot-and-mouth epidemic in 1967.

With resources stretched to the limit, farmers have complained that putrifying carcasses have been left lying in barns for weeks.

The government said that in the two regions most severely affected—Devon, in the south-west of England and Cumbria in the north-west—teams of two soldiers would be sent to farms where there are carcasses awaiting disposal.

"The Army has already agreed to help us with the logistics of the disposal of carcasses in the two areas where we have the heaviest cases of disease," junior agriculture minister Baroness Hayman told the BBC.

Chief vet Jim Scudamore received a frosty welcome on Monday when he went to Cumbria to explain that killing off healthy livestock was a necessary evil.

He was greeted with an ironic slow hand clap by a handful of irate farmers as he arrived in Carlisle, Cumbria's main town.

But he insisted that the mass slaughter would go ahead despite the opposition from farmers.

Scudamore said the extended cull would begin "within weeks" in Cumbria, although it has already started in Scotland on the orders of the semi-autonomous devolved government there.

David Handley, spokesperson for militant group Farmers For Action, warned that his members would resort to direct action if government vets arrived to slaughter healthy animals.

"I have got no alternative now if our members say they're not going to have their healthy livestock slaughtered," he said. "We have no alternative but to stand in the gate with them and stop it from happening."

Foot-and-mouth, a highly contagious virus, is generally harmless to humans. But it induces influenza-type symptoms in livestock, which slows their growth and makes it impossible to sell them.

In Britain, the epicenters of the infection are in south-western Scotland, Cumbria and Devon. The only case in Europe outside the United Kingdom is on a farm in north-western France.

Tough measures put in place to prevent the disease from spreading further have brought the British countryside to a near-standstill.

Farmland is off-limits to ramblers while zoos, animal sanctuaries and country parks have been closed and scores of sporting events called off. *AFP*

Sub officer apologizes for collision

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—One of three submarine officers under investigation for the sinking of a Japanese trawler apologized for his role in the accident and told a Navy court that he stood "ready and willing to accept the consequences of my actions."

"It is clear that my name will be associated with this event for the rest of my life," Lt. j.g. Michael Coen, the USS Greeneville's officer of the deck, told a hushed courtroom Monday. "Nevertheless, I would like . . . to continue my service as a submarine officer."

Coen, his voice choked with emotion, apologized to the families of nine Japanese who were killed in the Feb. 9 collision between the submarine and the Ehime Maru. Several relatives sat in the second row of the court as Coen spoke.

"I want you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at all times," he said, "and you will be for the rest of my life."

He called his service aboard the Greeneville "as rewarding an experience as any man could hope for" and implored the court to allow him to continue serving his country.

Coen, 26, read his unsworn statement as the two-week court of inquiry quickly neared an end. Lawyers for another officer, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Pfeifer, submitted a written statement to the court that was not released to the public. Attorneys for Cmdr. Scott Waddle weighed their options after their request for testimonial immunity was denied. *AP*

Murder case: Is Japan fair to foreigners?

TOKYO—A court case involving an illegal Nepalese immigrant convicted of murdering a career woman who secretly worked as a prostitute has opened Japan's legal system to strong criticism about its fairness and treatment of foreigners. It also has focused attention on the country's unusual attitudes toward sex.

On April 14, 2000, a lower court acquitted Govinda Prasad Mainali, a 34-year-old Nepali, of murdering Yasuko Watanabe, 39, in a seedy Tokyo apartment three years earlier, citing lack of evidence. At the time of the crime, Mainali was overstaying his Japanese visa and illegally working at an Indian restaurant.

Acquittals in criminal cases are extremely rare in Japan, where officials usually only indict suspects they are nearly certain of convicting. Reports say that police also have been known to relentlessly pressure and sometimes beat suspects to win confessions.

Mainali was accused of strangling and robbing Ms Watanabe of $324. He eventually admitted having sex with her and paying her money, but he denied killing her.

Despite the innocent verdict, Mainali was held in prison as the prosecution appealed the case, something that wouldn't have happened to a Japanese defendant.

The move led to widespread criticism by Japanese human rights activists, who called the case further evidence of the legal system's discrimination against foreigners, who are often viewed as second-class citizens in homogenous Japan.

"Police detained him even after his acquittal. This in itself is injustice," said Shinichi Sano, who wrote a best-selling book about the murder case and its unusual victim, who worked during the day for Tokyo Electric Power Co., a leading utility company, and at night as a prostitute in the Shibuya area of town.

"It's discrimination against foreigners, particularly those from developing countries," Sano said in an interview on Tuesday. He also said that police beat Mainali and his former Nepali roommates to extract confessions.

Big questions also emerged about the evidence in the case.

Police believe that Ms. Watanabe was having sex with four men a night, including when she was killed. Nevertheless, authorities are accused of ignoring pubic hairs and condoms found in the apartment where the killing took place that didn't implicate Mainali. *AP*

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WITH a blacked-out traffic signal behind him, San Francisco Traffic Officer Erwin Tjon directs vehicles on California Highway 1 in San Francisco during a rolling power blackout, which hit the state March 19. REUTERS

California blackouts back with a vengeance

SACRAMENTO, California—Elevators ground to a halt and lights winked out in Beverly Hills, Silicon Valley and other communities up and down California as rolling blackouts swept across the state for the first time.

Nearly 1 million customers were affected Monday in the worst day yet in California's power crisis. Many fear the blackouts are a preview of what is to come this summer.

The blackouts were the first since January. The first rolling outages of the day lasted four hours—twice as long as those two months ago—and were spread across a much wider area, from dairy farms in Chino to restaurants in San Francisco and homes near the state capital.

The outages resumed about 6 p.m. and lasted until about 7:15 p.m., when managers of the state's power grid cut 800 megawatts, or enough power for 800,000 households.

"The lights went out and it was pitch black," said Bobbi Brislin, assistant manager of a San Diego Wal-Mart that was forced to clear out 600 customers. "I couldn't even find the door."

Power grid managers ordered the outages after electricity reserves fell almost to zero because of a transformer fire, high demand, and a lack of power from idled plants and out-of-state suppliers.

Police officers and sheriff's deputies scrambled to direct traffic at intersections. At the Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco, deputy chief of staff Harriett Burt worked through the outage with a battery-powered lantern.

"I think we'll just carry on as everybody else does with these," she said cheerfully.

In Ventura, several people were trapped in an elevator near the 11th floor of the 22-story Dean Witter Building. Maintenance workers helped the passengers escape through the roof of the elevator car, and employees were led down the stairs by candlelight.

"What scares me is it's not even summer yet," said Edward White, co-owner of Pacific Pawn in West Hollywood. "There is no solution unless they raise rates or build new generators."

Rolling outages were last ordered Jan. 17 and 18, but they were limited to parts of Northern California.

This time, the blackouts stretched from Eureka, 137 km from the Oregon line, to San Diego and for the first time reached into the suburbs of Los Angeles, which has been unaffected by mandatory outages because it has its own municipal power company.

"Everything has come to a stop," said Joan Tockey, a clerk at Mahogany Smoked Meats and Meadow Farms Country Smokehouse in Bishop, 434 km north of Los Angeles. "We'll have to lock the door."

The blackouts knocked out power in the busy Los Angeles-area port of Long Beach and affected homes in suburban San Diego and the state capital of Sacramento. At San Francisco Fire Station 15, surprised crews scrambled to get power from emergency backup generators.

At the Raffles L'Ermitage hotel in Beverly Hills, where dozens of designers, hairstylists and makeup artists have set up shop for Sunday's Academy Awards show, many were preparing for the worst.

"We've got hundreds of thousands of dollars wrapped up in this," said Ted Kruckel, a publicist for jeweler Van Cleef & Arpels and Helena Rubinstein's Heather Canavan. "Why Oscar week?"

The blackouts were ordered by the California Independent System Operator shortly before noon after the state fell 1,000 megawatts short of the power it needs. A thousand megawatts is about enough to power 1 million homes.

The ISO declared a Stage 3 alert, the highest level of emergency. It blamed increased demand for electricity because of a warm snap, less power from the Northwest and the loss of 1,400 megawatts because of a transformer fire at a Southern California plant.

It also said 12,000 megawatts were unavailable because of idled plants—including some where officials say they haven't been paid by cash-strapped utilities for months and cannot afford to buy the natural gas they need to operate. *AP*

Ivory Coast finding ways around HIV drug patents

By Ellen Knickmeyer

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast—Away from the big courtroom battle over HIV-drug patents in South Africa, Ivory Coast is quietly importing knockoff generic HIV drugs as it has for years—without fuss, patent payments, or apologies.

"Believe me, I don't care," Kassim Sidibe, director of Ivory Coast's AIDS program, said Monday of patent rights.

"Our concern is what we can do for our people," said Sidibe, who runs the national program out of a dusty concrete compound in a working-class Abidjan neighborhood.

"The lower the prices are for us, the better for our people."

At-cost deals

With that attitude, Ivory Coast has become one of the first African countries to negotiate at-cost deals for top brand HIV drugs.

Similar deals were announced for Senegal, Rwanda and Uganda this month. For Ivory Coast, it's expected to bring the cost of a month's HIV drug treatment down from $410 this year to somewhere between $88-112 next year, depending on the drug combination.

It's an example of the pressure the West's big drug-makers are coming under from generics, from AIDS activists, and from Africa.

"We feel drug-makers should make profits in Europe and North America," said Sidibe. "Not from us. We don't have anything."

In South Africa, leading drug companies went to court this month to block an AIDS-inspired law that would let it both import generic drugs and make its own.

In recent weeks, drugmakers simultaneously announced a rapid-fire series of concessions including price cuts for Africa to production cost or lower.

Bristol-Myers Squibb said it would make its patent for the drug Zerit available in South Africa at no cost—effectively opening the market to its generic competitors. The company stressed it would stick with the drug companies' South Africa lawsuit, however, portraying the case as a broad defense of patent rights.

Outside South Africa, Bristol-Myers says it has no patent rights for AIDS therapy anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa.

AZT and Stavudine

In Ivory Coast, the government gets the HIV drugs it wants by holding bids for them worldwide.

When two of the bids for 2001 came back for knockoff drugs, at what Ivory Coast deemed the lowest and best offer, they took it.

The national AIDS program shipped in AZT and Stavudine from Bombay-based generic company Cipla, bypassing their brand-name makers, GlaxoSmithKline and Bristol-Myers. Bristol-Myers markets Stavudine as Zerit.

The result was a 20 percent savings in the average monthly therapy, said Makan Coulabily, an official with the AIDS program. Coulabily said there was no patent violation.

Sidibe, the national AIDS director, didn't bother to determine whether there were patent rights at issue or not.

"We bargain until we get the minimum price," he said Monday.

GlaxoSmithKline officials in London and Abidjan did not return calls for comment on Monday. Neither did Bristol-Myers in the United States.

In a statement announcing the patent concession in South Africa, executive vice president John L. McGoldrick said, "We at Bristol-Myers Squibb certainly do not have all the answers.

"But we hope our initiatives can be of some help to African AIDS sufferers and may help energize and accelerate world understanding and action."

Cost savings

Attitudes like Ivory Coast's come easier in the many sub-Saharan countries that are both poorer than South Africa—Ivory Coast's per capita gross domestic product is one-fourth that of South Africa—and perhaps less conscious of staying on the right side of international investors.

Ivory Coast, long West Africa's financial hub, has been wracked in the past 15 months by a coup, coup attempts and cocoa- and coffee price drops that have made life much harder for its 16 million people. *AP*

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ROUNDUP

Inmate kills self

IVISAN, Capiz—An inmate killed himself inside the detention cell of the Ivisan police station on Monday. Cesar Ursos, 70, was still alive when his fellow inmates found him hanging from a piece of cloth. He died a few minutes later, police said. Ursos was facing frustrated murder charges before a local court. *Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Wanted man falls

ROXAS CITY—The eighth most wanted person on Panay Island was captured in Iloilo last week by joint elements of the Iloilo and Capiz police. Mario Cabarobias, 48, of San Rafael, Iloilo, was wanted for attempted murder and illegal possession of firearms. He is now detained at the police Regional Command in Camp Delgado, Iloilo. Senior Insp. Oscar Silva, Dumarao police chief, said Cabarobias was a known leader and founder of the Cabarobias Armed Group, which was suspected to be behind robberies and smuggling in Panay. The group allegedly operated in Dumarao town as well as in the towns of Lemery and San Rafael and Passi City in Iloilo. *Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Dee recall pressed

DIGOS CITY—An influential national tribal organization is pressing for the recall of the appointment of former Ambassador Howard Dee as presidential adviser on indigenous peoples. Bai Neneng Sibug, chair of the Tribal Council of the Philippines (Tricap), said Dee is a good person but there was a need to appoint a member of the indigenous community to the position if the government is really after the good of the tribes. She said only a *lumad* would fully understand the needs and problems of the indigenous communities. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

P1M to Comelec

DIGOS CITY—The provincial government has released P1 million to the Commission on Elections provincial office for the May 14 elections. Gov. Rogelio Llanos told radio station dxML that the poll body could use the money for salaries of additional personnel and other expenses. Pedro Reganit, provincial election supervisor, earlier admitted that the poll body lacks personnel for the local and national elections.
Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Brods support Leung

LEGAZPI CITY—The Beta Sigma Fraternity Albay Assembly has commended the Philippine National Police for the early solution of the killing of UP-Baguio students Giancarlo Leung and Tihani Tingal. The PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group earlier announced that it has arrested three suspects, all members of the Samahang Ilokano Fraternity. The Albay Beta Sigmans and the Malmon and Co. have sent cash donation for Leung's family as "small assistance for the family's quest for justice" for their slain fraternity brother. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gov's supporter slain

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine National Police in Sorsogon is investigating the killing on Saturday of a supporter and friend of Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee. Rodrigo "Tete" Chua, 55, of Barangay Bibingcahan, Sorsogon City, a Chinese businessman and a political leader of Lee, was gunned down by unidentified teen-looking suspects inside a cockpit in Barangay Gabao, Bacon, Sorsogon, according to the Bicol police regional office here. Supt. Roque Ramirez, Sorsogon police provincial director, said Chua was shot by the two suspects armed with .45 cal. and 9 mm pistols. Ramirez said Chua suffered multiple gunshot wounds in the body and two gunshot wounds in the face. "Chua was still alive when gunmen fled. He, however, died in a hospital in Manila where he (Chua) was airlifted," he added. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 33° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 27° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 34° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone Hi 34° Lo 22°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 33° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 33° Lo 23°

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Flying voters haunt polls

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FRAUD looms large over the horizon as the May 14 national and local elections draw nearer and nearer.

In Bacolod City, two officers of the Commission on Elections in Negros Occidental were placed under investigation for allegedly failing to investigate a complaint against "flying registrants" of La Carlota City, some 45 kilometers southeast of Bacolod.

Cirilo Nala, Comelec provincial election supervisor, and Gilbert Palogan, La Carlota elections supervisor, were ordered investigated for alleged violations of the Omnibus Election Code.

In a memorandum, Jose Jalbuena, Comelec law department director for Western Visayas, told Rodolfo Sarroza, Comelec Western Visayas director, to conduct the investigation in 30 days after the two officials submit their affidavits and evidence.

Jalbuena also forwarded to Sarroza the answers sent to the Comelec by Nala and Palogan and the complaint of Vice Mayor Rex Jalandoon of La Carlota to form part of the formal investigation.

Nala told the INQUIRER that he was not aware of the Comelec order to investigate him although he had already answered the charges hurled against him by Jalandoon.

He said he did not commit any violation but was prepared to face any investigation.

Jalandoon accused Nala and Palogan of neglect of duty for allegedly failing to investigate "flying registrants" in La Carlota.

The vice mayor alleged that most of the flying registrants were workers of the Cojuangco farms outside the fourth district of Negros Occidental.

Negros Occidental Rep. Carlos Cojuangco of the fourth district is seeking reelection in May.

Nala had denied personally knowing the Cojuangcos. Representative Cojuangco had also denied involvement in the case of the flying registrants.

But Jalandoon claimed that Palogan accepted and processed the application of about 200 residents of Ilog town for transfer of voting records to La Carlota even if they had not gone to the Comelec office in La Carlota.

"The applications were subscribed (to) by Palogan in the absence of the applicants who were supposed to have sworn before him," he added.

Jalandoon also said Palogan committed grave misconduct by initially refusing to furnish them with copies of the voters application for transfer.

In Laoag City, the Comelec raised fears of possible cheating during the May 14 elections, noting the "unusual" increase in the number of new registered voters in Ilocos Norte.

Ilocos Norte is also one of the provinces where the infamous *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and –shaving) was supposedly committed in the 1995 elections.

The fraud here allegedly benefited then senatorial candidates Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan, now both reelectionists, but cost the election bid of then candidates Aquilino Pimentel Jr., now Senate president, and Rodolfo Biazon.

Cases filed against the provincial election board of canvassers of Ilocos Norte during that elections are still pending before the regional trial court here.

Comelec records showed that registered voters for the 2001 elections in the province increased by 21,661 from those of previous elections.

Registered voters, as of Jan. 15, 2001, totaled 267,630 compared to 245,969 voters in 1998.

Raising suspicions that the new registrants include flying voters, Noli Pipo, provincial elections supervisor, said the turnout of registrants during the last quarter of the continuing registration was "unusual."

"In the past, we only had a turnout of (an average additional) 20 to 30 voters per town. While in the last quarter (of 2000), it jumped to 1,500-1,900 voters," he said.

Bomb hurts 5 in Baguio City mall

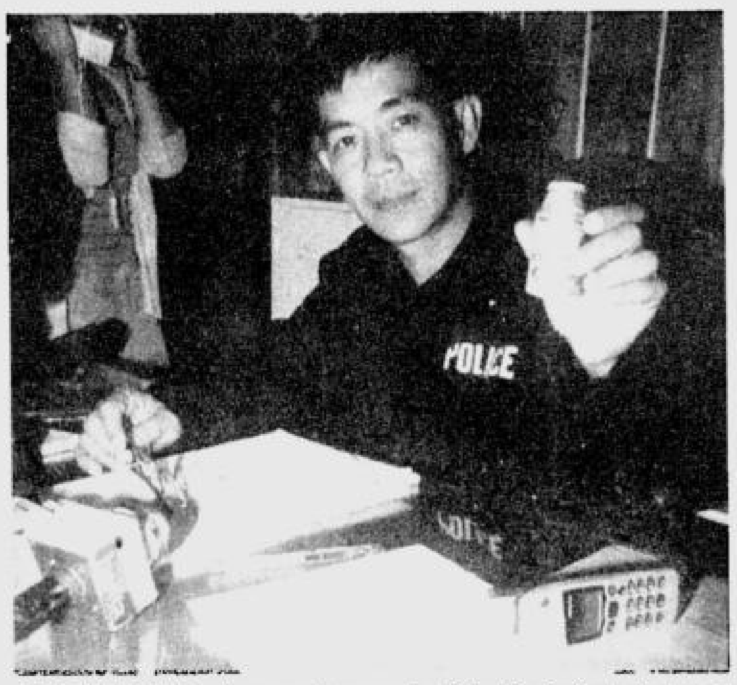
BAGUIO CITY—A homemade pillbox exploded on Sunday afternoon inside a downtown mall here, injuring five shoppers and sending hundreds others scampering for safety.

Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Baguio police director, said one of the pillboxes, encased in a small plastic bottle, was dropped from the third floor of the Baguio Center Mall on Magsaysay Avenue here at about 5:20 p.m. Sunday and exploded when it hit the mall's second floor railing.

It again exploded when it hit the ground floor in front of a record bar. Another pillbox was dropped but it did not explode, Bumanglag said.

He identified the victims as Imelda Coremo, 17; Mylene Napusiac, 23; Melissa Quimpan, 22; Rowena Budiongan, 26; and Florante Dulucan, 23.

They were taken to the St. Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart and were treated for minor injuries in the arms and legs. They were later released from the hospital.



A BAGUIO CITY policeman shows a plastic bottle similar to that used in the bombing.
TOOTS SOBERANO

Bumanglag said the injuries were caused by the explosion and not by the resulting stampede.

The Baguio Center Mall was closed immediately after the incident until Monday morning.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, in an interview over radio station dzMM on Monday, said the explosion was not a terrorist act and could have been done by pranksters.

"It's very, very remote, if not impossible, that this is a terroristic act. This is an isolated case," he said.

Lomibao, in the same interview, said the pillbox throwing could be a result of "*inggitan* (envy)" between youth groups that frequent the mall.

That the incident occurred at the onset of the influx of thousands of lowlanders to Baguio caused concern to the police.

Lomibao lamented the timing of the explosion when the city is preparing for the arrival of tourists for the Philippine Military Academy graduation this week and for the summer break.

He assured visitors and residents that Baguio is safe, and stressed that the incident was "isolated."

Insp. Amador Orsen of the Baguio police's bomb squad said the pillbox was probably meant to cause a commotion rather than to maim people because of the absence of shrapnel.

He said the use of the plastic bottle instead of glass showed that the thrower did not intend to maim. He said that they still have to determine the chemicals used for the bomb but surmised that it could be ordinary gunpowder.

SPO3 William Baroga said a piece of marble recovered from the debris was not part of the pillbox.

Bumanglag said the timing of the explosion coincided with the peak hours of the mall which made them suspect that the bomb was exploded to create havoc.

He said at least 60 security guards were detailed in the mall's various establishments at the time of the explosions. *Frank Cimatu with a report from Daphne Marie Falag-ey, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

8.5 has in Isabela allotted for Bt-corn

ILAGAN, Isabela—Close to nine hectares of land in five towns in Isabela will be planted with Bt-corn, a genetically altered crop containing *Bacillus thuringensis*, as militant groups here stepped up their opposition to the project.

At least 1,700 square meters of land in each target village in Isabela will be planted with Bt-corn, according to a fact sheet from the seed company Monsanto Philippines.

The target areas include Barangay Carulay in Echague town, Barangay Diarao in Jones town, Barangay Yeban Sur in Benito Soliven town, Barangay Nappacu Pequeno in Reina Mercedes town and Barangay Villaluna in Cauayan town.

Militant groups, however, have intensified their campaign against the release of Bt-corn and the importation of highly restricted chemicals and products that are reportedly equipped with genetically modified organisms (GMO).

Among those actively campaigning against the use of GMO-enhanced products are the Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon iti Cagayan Valley, Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development, Anti-Coal Mining Movement, National Union of Students of the Philippines and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

An information sheet from Dr. Victor Alpuerto, project leader of the Bt-corn release, said the firm would embark on the project to confirm the resistance of Bt-corn against the Asiatic corn borer, evaluate its economic value and compare grain quality by quantifying levels of toxin in grains.

It said farmers can significantly reduce the amount of chemical insecticides applied to the crop, which can reduce the cost of production and thus increase the income of farmers. The exposure to insecticides and spray solution is also reduced.

A disadvantage, though, was noted as the Bt-corn, like the ordinary varieties used by farmers today, may develop resistance.

Provincial governors, mayors and village chairmen in 29 villages in the country where the field testing of Bt-corn would be conducted were reportedly consulted before the release of the Bt-corn.

But members of militant groups said questions on the safety of Bt-corn and genetically modified rice to humans have yet to be answered by scientists and researchers.

Highly industrialized nations are exporting GMO-enhanced products like soybean, corn, cotton, tobacco and potatoes.

A Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas information kit showed that the Philippines is among the importers of these products. A total of 108,000 metric tons of corn and 450,000 tons of soybeans were imported in 1997. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Anti-drug spies offered reward

DIGOS CITY—The local government of Kidapawan City yesterday offered rewards to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest of suspected drug pushers.

Apparently irked by the reported boldness of drug pushers, Mayor Luis Malaluan said the reward scheme would be implemented immediately.

He did not specify the amount but said he hoped this could boost the city's campaign against illegal drugs.

"We will reward those who could help us in our campaign against the evils of drugs," Malaluan said in a radio interview.

At least three slum areas were positively identified by narcotics agents as havens of drug pushers in Kidapawan. These are Kanapia Subdivision, Alim and Talisay.

A Narcom report said even children are being used by drug pushers to peddle their merchandise and deals are made in public.

Malaluan also rallied residents and non-government organizations to help in the government's campaign to flush out pushers, whom he tagged as "outsiders."

In Davao del Sur, an organization of former drug dependents have also intensified their campaign against illegal drugs.

The Kagawasan Foundation, composed mainly of members of prominent families started as a small group last year but it has established chapters in other municipalities in the province.
Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 miners killed, 92 hurt in mining area landslide

DAVAO CITY—Three small-scale miners were killed and 92 others were left homeless in a landslide that hit a mining community in Pantukan, Compostela Valley Saturday afternoon.

Another person remains buried in mud and rocks but government and private rescue teams yesterday gave up their search as heavy rains made the effort, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

Carmelito Lupo, OCD regional director here, said the miners were working in a gold processing plant at Pananason Side B in Barangay Kingking when the landslide struck at 4:45 p.m. Saturday following heavy rains in the area.

A few hours after the incident, search teams sent by the government rescued three miners. The three were airlifted early Sunday to the Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City. But one of them, Gil de Dios, died at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Lupo, in a report submitted to the OCD in Manila, said three persons were buried alive in the landslide.

But he said the body of Demetrio Palas, 32, one of the three miners buried, was recovered at around 3 p.m. also on Sunday.

The third body, identified by the OCD as that of Lakay Sombrera, was recovered at around 10:30 a.m. Monday.

Lupo said a certain Bebot remains buried in mud but searchers gave up their search.

Miners and residents in the area took over the search but they believe the man is already dead.

Lupo said the mining area, located in a very steep slope, is prone to landslides. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops seize ₱6.8M in smuggled rice

By Roger Paller
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in the Visayas seized some P6.8 million worth of rice suspected to have been smuggled from Thailand.

Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, PAOCTF-Visayas chief, said the 6,800 sacks of rice were shipped to Cebu from Cagayan de Oro on board the LSC Cagayan de Oro of Lorenzo Shipping Lines.

The shipment was misdeclared as raw rubber with an estimated value of P9.2 million. Based on the bill of lading, the cargo was consigned to a certain Erlinda Tan and a "Cebu Lucky."

On Saturday, the PAOCTF agents intercepted three 20-foot vans just outside Pier 5 after receiving a tip that these contained smuggled rice.

The task force later discovered 14 more vans at the Lorenzo Shipping Yard located inside Pier 5 containing the same cargo.

Each van contained about 400 sacks of imported rice, or a total of 6,800 sacks. At a market price of P1,000 per sack, the seized cargo could cost a total of P6.8 million, said Ruel Gotico, customs appraiser.

But reports said eight vans, each containing about 400 sacks, had already left the yard before the PAOCTF conducted the operation.

Customs agent Rolando de la Cruz said they suspected that the shipment might have come from Thailand where rice is sold at P200 per sack.

Corpuz said they might file smuggling charges against Lorenzo Shipping for loading these items from Cagayan de Oro City on board its vessel.

"The shipper may be in cahoots with the smugglers since they failed to inform authorities of the real content of the cargo," said Corpuz.

The Bureau of Customs would inform the consignees of the seizure and conduct an investigation to determine if the shipment was indeed smuggled, said Customs Collector Marcial Lopez.

Frat to wait for evidence vs rival frat

BAGUIO CITY—The Beta Sigma Fraternity at the University of the Philippines College Baguio here said they would wait for "hard evidence" before it could fully believe results of police investigation showing that members of a breakaway faction of the Samahang Ilokano (SI) Fraternity were indeed the abductors and killers of Giancarlo Leung and his friend Tihani Tingal last week.

A representative of the Beta Sigma UPCB chapter, who asked the INQUIRER that his name be withheld, said the fraternity was issuing the statement following the arrest of three SI members in Baguio and Villasis, Pangasinan on Friday and Saturday.

Police said the suspects, Ronald Domalina, Raymund Testado and Bong Sison, allegedly carried out the abduction and slaying to avenge Leung's alleged maltreatment of some of their sorority sisters. The three are supposedly members of "Magic 5," a breakaway group of SI.

Leung was the head of the UPCB chapter of Beta Sigma. He and Tingal were abducted in Baguio City on March 8. Their bodies, both with bullet wounds in the head, were found in separate places in Pampanga on March 11.

The Beta Sigma representative said the fraternity's UPCB chapter has no conflict with any SI chapter in the city in the past few years. *Robert Abaño and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Blast rocks Iloilo candidate's house

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An explosion rocked on Sunday a vice mayoralty candidate's residential compound in San Enrique town, 54 kilometers north of here, raising fears among residents that violence will mar the local elections in May.

The blast took place at about 1 a.m. at the house of Julius Paclibar, the vice mayoralty candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) in San Enrique.

The explosion shattered the glass jalousies and damaged the roof of Paclibar's house on Garrido Street, about 200 meters from the police station. It also tore the fence of his neighbor's house.

Police investigators were still checking if a grenade or a homemade bomb caused the blast.

SPO4 Teodulo Añora Jr., San Enrique police chief, said two of his men went to the scene of the blast at 8 a.m. Monday but failed to find evidence of the bomb.

He said police have yet to identify the suspects and the motive for the bombing although investigators were not discounting the possibility that it might be politically motivated.

Although nobody was injured, the blast raised fears among San Enrique residents that the coming elections would be far from peaceful.

Already, they have witnessed mudslinging and trading of accusations between the camps of Jose Fernandez (Lakas-NUCD) and Zafiro Palabrica (LDP), the two contenders for the mayoral post. Paclibar is the runningmate of Palabrica.

Fernandez, a provincial board member, seeks to replace his wife, Grace, the town's incumbent mayor. Their daughter, Rosario. Mediatrix Fernandez-Tupas, is the Sangguniang Kabataan president in Iloilo.

Palabrica was mayor of Bingawan, 69 km from here, for three terms and served as adviser to Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor.

Palabrica claimed he hailed from Barangay Camiri, San Enrique, but this was disputed by Fernandez who recently filed a petition before the Commission on Elections to disqualify Palabrica.

Fernandez said Palabrica fell short of the one-year residency required by the Omnibus Election Code before candidates could run for elective position in a particular place.

Palabrica said he lived in Barangay Camiri before May 26, 2000, the date he transferred his voter's registration from Bingawan to San Enrique.

But both Fernandez and Palabrica agreed to have their town placed under Comelec control following Sunday's explosion.

Lawyer Rodolfo Sarrosa, Comelec director for Western Visayas, said such an agreement would not hold unless his office and the Philippine National Police so decide.

Supt. Victor Boco, provincial police director, had already asked the Police Regional Office Western Visayas (PRO-6) to assist in the investigation of the blast.

He promised to send more police personnel to San Enrique if additional troops he requested from the regional office would arrive.

Boco said election hot spots, or areas of concern, will receive additional police forces next month.

Sunday's explosion was the recent addition to the list of possible election-related incidents in Iloilo, characterized mostly by arrests of persons found violating the gun ban.

Supt. Norlito Bautista, police information officer, noted that there were 118 incidents of gun ban violations, with Iloilo City having 28 followed by Negros Occidental and Iloilo provinces with 21 and 20.

Cops to watch bets in crime

KORONADAL CITY—Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, has ordered police units in Southern and Central Mindanao to look into the possible involvement of certain politicians in various criminal activities in the area.

Mendoza's directive came through radio advisories from the PNP national headquarters in Camp Crame to criminal investigation branches of police stations in the area.

The directive cited the alleged activation of organized groups in the area who were out to raise election campaign funds for some political leaders through kidnapping, extortion, robbery and other criminal acts.

The order, however, did not provide details.

General Santos City police director Supt. Conrado Laza vowed to look into the matter but said they have not received any intelligence information on the involvement of local politicians in criminal activities in the city.

"As far as the city PNP is concerned, there were no politicians involved or linked in any way to any criminal activity in the city," Laza said.

In the last two weeks, police have recorded two kidnappings, one major robbery-holdup and a number of car thefts in the city.

Consumer's Bank manager Lowell Sinda and his 20-year-old daughter Janice Glenda were seized from their house in Gensanville Subdivision last March 3. The elder Sinda was later freed but his daughter is still in the hands of the kidnappers who are reportedly demanding P500,000 in ransom.

Authorities were suspecting that the kidnapping was the work of a gang led by a certain Commander Kutang based in Maguindanao province.

On March 7, eight-year-old Mika de la Cruz, daughter of a Metrobank employee, was also abducted but was rescued on the same day by police operatives.

A lending firm also lost about P50,000 in cash and other valuables last March 7 from a group of armed men who claimed to be members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

In South Cotabato, Supt. Bonfillo Dacoco, provincial police chief, gave assurances that his station would carefully evaluate the report.

Allen Estabillo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DE CASTRO campaigning on the railways.
PHOTO FROM DE CASTRO CAMPAIGN

Stop to dirty tricks urged

SENATORIAL candidate Noli de Castro yesterday called for an end to a campaign of mudslinging and character assassination in response to charges that he was not qualified to become senator.

In a statement, De Castro, a former broadcaster and TV news host, said he was challenging other senatorial candidates to bring the campaign "to a higher plane."

"The whole world now looks up to us as a show window of practical democracy at work. Let us preserve the gains we achieved at Edsa in 1986 and 2001 by helping install a new political order where differences in ideas and partisan ideologies are debated upon peacefully and intelligently," De Castro said in Filipino.

"We have shown other peoples of the world that we are perfectly capable of attaining a drastic change in national leadership without a shot being fired," he said.

"This is legacy enough that we must so dearly treasure and keep unsullied by preventing backsliding into the rotten ways of traditional politics."

De Castro, a guest candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa coalition, has been topping the surveys of candidates who are most likely to land seats in the Senate.

CAMARINES SUR CAMPAIGN

Ex-tourism chief proclaimed candidate of PPC

EDUARDO Pilapil, party-list representative of the veterans sector in the 11th Congress, was proclaimed last Feb. 20 by the People Power Coalition (PPC) as its official candidate for congressman of the third district of Camarines Sur.

Pilapil's official proclamation was signed by Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, chair of the PPC Joint Coordinating Secretariat; Rep. Heherson Alvarez, PPC secretary general; and Joey Rufino, PPC executive director.

Pilapil was also appointed PPC chair in his district and authorized to coordinate all coalition activities in his area of jurisdiction. He will face a young and untested scion of the pro-Estrada Fuentebella political dynasty in his district for the May 2001 elections.

When asked about his chances of victory over the dynasty, Pilapil said "I did it before when I won as congressman in 1987. Both at Edsa last January 20 and in Bicol, the people have already shown their strong disapproval for my opponent's political affiliations and programs."

A former postmaster general and secretary of tourism during the Ramos administration, Pilapil's stints in the 8th and 11th Congress produced laws and bills beneficial to Bicol's local community, tourism and infrastructure programs; the national government's postal, tourism and military agencies; and the war veterans sector's pension, benefits and livelihood programs.

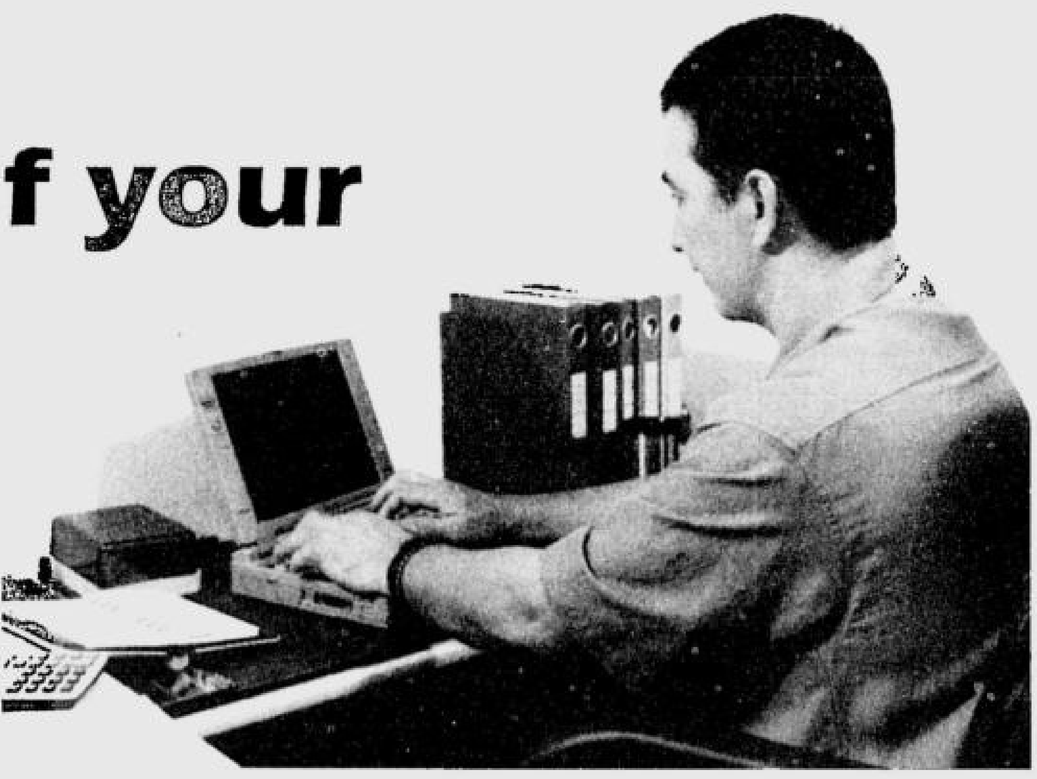
Pilapil, however, asked national government authorities and the people in his district to be extra vigilant about possibly illegal election practices now ongoing in Camarines Sur's third district.

He cited two recently discovered apparent attempts to smuggle into his district thousands of sacks of what appeared to be illegally-obtained or stolen NFA rice possibly intended for an early vote-buying campaign.

In the last month alone, he said he had received reliable reports that a first attempt to smuggle about 25,000 sacks left the rice unprotected from rain, ruining almost all of them.

A second attempt resulted in the grounding of the cargo vessel off the Camarines Sur shoreline and the loss of another 25,000 sacks.

He called this an utter waste of government resources and announced he would call for an investigation and possible legal action against the suspected smugglers.



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MAKING HISTORY THROUGH 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE FILIPINOS.

The Filipinos' united aspirations and efforts to rebuild the country, that has faced political and economic problems, have created another moment in history. It was a moment that manifested their power to take charge and shape their future.

Inspired by this historical moment, we at Eternal Plans, Inc. take pride in 20 years of helping the Filipinos build better lives through quality education, pension and life plans. Since 1981, we have dedicated ourselves to fulfilling dreams of individuals and families by taking care of their needs and encouraging them to aspire for a good life.

But the success behind our 20 years in the industry lies on the power that pushes us to improve in our pursuit. It's the power which consists of our loyal planholders who have entrusted their futures to Eternal Plans, and thus, believe in its purpose. For the past 20 years, they have inspired us to remain steadfast to our mission despite the problems that has been threatening the country.

At 20 and beyond, rest assured that we would continue to seek for more milestones of sterling service. And this shall be remembered throughout pre-need history.

As the year marks our 20th, we pay tribute to our dear planholders who have been the main ingredient of Eternal Plans' progress through the years. We shall endeavor to build more futures and fulfill more dreams through quality education, pension and life plans.

Messages

Sincerest greetings to the men and women of Eternal Plans, Inc, on their 20th Anniversary and Annual Awards Celebration.

For the past two decades, Eternal Plans, Inc. has succeeded in making a difference in the lives of its clients. By persevering in its devotion to help our people provide for their future needs in the most cost-effective means, you have empowered Filipino families by preparing them to face the uncertainties of the future and encouraging them to save as a tool for the actualization of their dreams and aspirations.

In light of the present economic and financial challenges that the whole nation is facing, I enjoin you to keep your products and services accessible to the widest possible segment of our people as a concrete manifestation of your commitment to contribute to nation building. Let us not allow ourselves to be daunted by the immensity of the challenges we face. Instead, let us work hand in hand towards a bright future for all.

On that note, let me convey once more my most heartfelt congratulations to the entire Eternal Plans, Inc. family for a work well done for the past 20 years.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of The Philippines

I send my warm greetings and congratulations to Eternal Plans, Inc. as you celebrate your 20th Anniversary and Awards Presentation. You celebrate 20 years of love and service. God gives us gifts. Your twenty years of existence marked by determination and commitment is a grace from God. Your top producers' accomplishment is likewise a marvelous gift from God at a time when times are hard and difficult. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

And He is expecting us to safeguard the gifts He gave us. Always remember that God is constantly showing His great love and concern for you. And from this love, God is calling forth a response. You have an important role to perform, particularly in ensuring the basic and future needs of our people. And if you imbue your work with the love coming from God, certainly you will bear lasting fruits.

I impart my paternal blessings as you journey to become God's living and loving instruments. Your work at the service of our brothers and sisters becomes a fitting gift to the Lord Who is the very meaning of every human effort. May He always guide and inspire you and all your endeavors.

May Jesus reward all your efforts!

+ Jaime Card. Sin
+ JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

The Eternal Plans, Inc.'s annual awards speaks well of the caliber of your workforce. It mirrors the competence of your sales employees who have ably walked the company through the changing economic landscape.

That you have withstood 20 years of challenges in the industry is proof of your stability and market leadership.

Congratulations to the top sales producers, directors, officers and staff of Eternal Plans. May you continue to grow as an organization and contribute your share in the noble task of nation building.

Mabuhay!

ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary
Department Of Finance

I convey my warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Eternal Plans, Inc. as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary on March 21, this year.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government recognizes the contribution of the private sector in complementing government efforts at providing our people with efficient services. Hence, it is for this reason that the Department supports your organization's vision of securing the future of our people through your life, pension and education plans.

It is my hope that this celebration will inspire Eternal Plans management to explore more avenues of helping our people.

Mabuhay and a Blessed Anniversary to one and all!

JOSE D. LINA, JR.
Department of the Interior and Local Government

PENSION BENEFITS. Ma. Lara Via Lamucho daughter of EPI planholder Victoria Lamucho receives a check from Mr. Domingo R. Almoninia Jr., EVP and General Manager of Eternal Plans, Inc. The said check represents the lump sum maturity value of Mrs. Lamucho's pension plan. Looking are Mr. Ploridel B. Magpantay (left) VP for Finance Division and Mr. Jaime B. Bangalan SAVP for Institutional Sales.

The Value of Planning for the Future

Ma. Corazon V. Jamison
Mother of an EPI Scholar

" I still remember my student days when I study hard at night only to find out the following day that I could not take my exam because my tuition fee had not been paid. So many times have I felt desperate about the situation but I could not do anything about it because we are such a big family without a father to support us.

And now as a mother, I work very hard since I want to do whatever I can do today for my children. I want my children to learn the value of planning for the future so they too would plan for their children someday. I instill into their minds that being a part of a good family like EPI means a brighter future. That is why I made my daughter a part of the EPI family as a scholar.

I thank the management and staff of Eternal Plans, Inc. for helping my daughter realize her dreams."

On Dreams and Successes

Geofrey N. Gayaso
EPI Scholar
Tuba, Benguet

" I believe that education is a key in fulfilling our dreams in life. That is why I am very grateful to Eternal Plans, Inc. Through their financial assistance, I was able to graduate with a degree in B.S. Medical Technology last March 2000.

To have finished my studies and passed the board exams are great fulfillments for me, and I can truly say that EPI had been a big help. I also want to thank my aunt and my parents for being there, guiding and supporting me all the way.

I am so inspired of what EPI has done for me that I want to encourage other parents to plan for the future of their children. With Eternal Plans, Inc. on their side, they are assured that their dreams and their children's will be fulfilled."

Assurance on What Lies Ahead

Macario Asistio
Former Caloocan Mayor
EPI Pension Planholder

Former Caloocan City Mayor Asistio relates how Eternal Plans has helped him during the time when he was experiencing financial difficulties. "Tuwang-tuwa ako nang malaman ko na makakatanggap ako ng pera. Tamang-tama dahil noong mga panahong 'yon medyo gipit ako," he states. Eternal Plans proved to be a big help to him, as he found no difficulty going through his claim.

At present, Asistio is a proud holder of an Eternal Pension plan, and he has also secured his kids and grandchildren with Eternal Education plans. He also advises non-planholders to never think twice about their future.

"Ang buhay hindi mo nasisiguro kung hanggang kailan ka may pera. Totoo na para itong gulong. Puwedeng nasa taas ka, pero puwedeng bababa ka rin. Kaya mainam na magtabi ka ng pera para sa kasiguraduhan ng kinabukasan mo."

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EPI SALUTES ITS 2000 TOP SALES ACHIEVERS

Annual Awardees

Regular Sales Category

AREA MANAGER CATEGORY

CARMELITA L. PEREZ
1st Place
Baliuag

BENIGNA A. UMALI
2nd Place
Los Baños

RODOLFO E. REYES
3rd Place
Biñan

DISTRICT MANAGER CATEGORY

ELIZA S. AQUINO
1st Place
Baliuag

MA. AVIS REGINA U. GARCIA
2nd Place
Los Baños

SALES COUNSELOR

ANTONIO C. AQUINO, JR.
1st Place
Baliuag

JOZAIDA C. VELASCO
2nd Place
Bangar

PAULINO A. UMALI, JR.
3rd Place
Los Baños

MAGDALENA V. DIZON
4th Place
Baliuag

MA. VICTORIA G. VILLACORTA
5th Place
Meycauayan

FERDINAND RODRIGO M. PAULE
6th Place
Calamba

RODEMIA G. ORIN
7th Place
Olongapo

RONALDO B. HIZON
8th Place
Bataan

Institutional Sales Category

DISTRICT MANAGER CATEGORY

NADZ DE JESUS
1st Place
San Fernando, La Union

SALES COUNSELOR

TEOFILO B. ALVENDIA
1st Place
San Fernando, La Union

LOPE F. TAGAPULOT
2nd Place
Cebu

Chairman's Cup Awardees

Regular Sales Category

AREA MANAGER CATEGORY

CARMELITA L. PEREZ
1st Place
Baliuag

RODOLFO E. REYES
2nd Place
Biñan

BENIGNA A. UMALI
3rd Place
Los Baños

DISTRICT MANAGER CATEGORY

ELIZA S. AQUINO
1st Place
Baliuag

RICARDO A. AGUILAR
2nd Place
Biñan

THELMA G. CABILA
3rd Place
Biñan

SALES COUNSELOR

MAGDALENA V. DIZON
1st Place
Baliuag

JOZAIDA C. VELASCO
2nd Place
Bangar

ANTONIO C. AQUINO, JR.
3rd Place
Baliuag

MERLINA N. MARTINEZ
4th Place
Butuan

MARIE LOU A. ABALAJEN
5th Place
Bacolod

MA. VICTORIA G. VILLACORTA
6th Place
Meycauayan

FERDINAND RODRIGO M. PAULE
7th Place
Calamba

PAULINO A. UMALI, JR.
8th Place
Los Baños

RODEMIA G. ORIN
9th Place
Olongapo

ANGELA A. PONCE
10th Place
Head Office

Institutional Sales Category

AREA MANAGER CATEGORY

HELEN O. BALLESIL
1st Place
San Fernando, La Union

DISTRICT MANAGER CATEGORY

NADZ DE JESUS
1st Place
San Fernando, La Union

SALES COUNSELOR

TEOFILO B. ALVENDIA
1st Place
San Fernando, La Union

LOPE F. TAGAPULOT
2nd Place
Cebu

Vice-Chairman's Christmas Cheers Awardees

Regular Sales Category

AREA MANAGER CATEGORY

CARMELITA L. PEREZ
1st Place
Baliuag

BENIGNA A. UMALI
2nd Place
Los Baños

DISTRICT MANAGER CATEGORY

ELIZA S. AQUINO
1st Place
Baliuag

AGUSTIN A. VILLASOR
2nd Place
Butuan

THELMA G. CABILA
3rd Place
Biñan

DOLORA L. CHING
4th Place
Head Office

ZENAIDA GAVINA
5th Place
Bangar

SALES COUNSELOR

ANTONIO C. AQUINO, JR.
1st Place
Baliuag

GERARD FRANCIS LUANSING
2nd Place
Cainta

RODEMIA G. ORIN
3rd Place
Olongapo

ALLAN DALE M. CORDERO
4th Place
Head Office

JOZAIDA C. VELASCO
5th Place
Bangar

GLORIA B. HERNANDEZ
6th Place
Butuan

RONALDO B. HIZON
7th Place
Bataan

MAGDALENA V. DIZON
8th Place
Baliuag

PAULINO A. UMALI, JR.
9th Place
Los Baños

MA. VICTORIA VILLACORTA
10th Place
Meycauayan

Institutional Sales Category

DISTRICT MANAGER CATEGORY

ESTRELLA F. TAGAPULOT
1st Place
Cebu

PATROCINIO C. SAMSON, JR.
2nd Place
Ormoc

SALES COUNSELOR

LOPE F. TAGAPULOT
1st Place
Cebu

MINDA C TINAPAY
2nd Place
Ormoc

ERLINDA H. GALENZOGA
3rd Place
Ormoc

This year, the Eternal Plans' awardees will experience a four-day holiday treat in Asia's Shopping Capital, Hong Kong.

Eternal's Hong Kong Escapades promises to be a delightful and memorable experience for its annual awardees as they will find a lovely fusion of the old Chinese charm and the modern avant-garde living.

They are up to a once-in-a-lifetime treat as the place brings a panorama of colorful lights and happy people. With shopping galore in many corners, one can take hold of everything in vogue.

This year's Hong Kong Escapades will be an experience to treasure by the EPI awardees forever.

HONG KONG ESCAPADES:

A Special Treat for the
EPI Awardees

ITINERARY: Hong Kong Escapades
March 22-25, 2001

MANILA-HONG KONG
HONG KONG-MANILA
Departure Time 09:55 16:45
Flight No. Pr318 PR305
Arrival 12:00 18:45

March 22 (Thursday)
- Arrival at Hong Kong via PAL
- Meet and transfer to Guangdong Hotel
- Free time: familiarization; shopping

March 23 (Friday)
- Breakfast at hotel
- Half-day city tour (visit Mid-level, Aberdeen, Golden Bahinia View, Jewelry Factory and factory outlet)
- Lunch at TGI Friday
- Free entrance ticket to IN-V Entertainment Center in New World Renaissance Hotel

March 24 (Saturday)
- Breakfast at hotel
- Whole day at Shenzhen/Dongguan City and shopping tour with lunch
- Free entrance ticket to Windows of the World

March 25 (Sunday)
- Breakfast at hotel
- Free time: shopping
- Departure transfer to airport

Messages

I would like to congratulate Eternal Plans, Inc. on its 20th Anniversary.

As the country reels off from the effects of the economic crisis, business and industry play a crucial role in economic recovery and nation building. Thus, it is but proper that contributions of Filipino companies like Eternal Plans, Inc. are recognized. With its dynamic men and women, the company has through the years, proved that through hard and honest work, the Filipino can rise above the crisis and proudly face the challenges towards a better future. Through its various pre-need plans, the company has also shared with Filipinos the very important value of saving and preparing for the future.

May Eternal Plans, Inc. continue rendering invaluable service to the nation through its excellent products and services.

More power to all the men and women of Eternal Plans, Inc

Lilia R. Bautista
LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairman
Securities and Exchange Commission

Words are not enough to convey my pride and joy as we honor our outstanding sales producers on this 20th Anniversary of Eternal Plans, Inc. My appreciation goes as well to the directors, the officers and staff of Eternal Plans, whose support and teamwork with our frontliners, the sales force, led to success year after year for Eternal Plans.

We have even bigger reasons to celebrate because along with the rest of the nation, we have just been through a most trying time of economic setbacks and uncertainty. We hurdled the difficulties and have kept on the path of productivity and gain, thanks to our faith in the goodness of our work.

But despite the improvement in our political setting, we cannot consider ourselves totally over the hump now. Much hard work remains to be done for us to achieve our vision.

The pre-need products and services that we offer have been accepted and availed of by many of our countrymen. Through our work in the past 20 years, we have seen them learn the value of being prepared in advance for life's inevitable events and contingencies. As our next step, we have envisioned to make these products more accessible and affordable to a much bigger segment of our population.

But the effect of the recent financial and political crises are still with us. We are called upon to be more hardworking, persevering and creative in providing our services to the public.

I am confident that, with our outstanding sales producers as your models for success and achievement, we will weather these still uncertain times and proceed to attain our goals. With unity and teamwork, coupled with much hard work there is no way for us to fail.

Working together, let's carry on toward success.

ANTONIO L. CABANGON CHUA
[illegible]
Eternal Plans, Inc.

Two years ago, there was the financial crisis that rocked our foundation, a turbulence that Eternal Plans, Inc. survived not only intact but with glory as we managed to achieve our goals. On our 20th anniversary and the 2001 Annual Awards Program for our top sales producers, we have just once more weathered yet another crisis, one economic and political in nature.

That we are here tonight to celebrate our milestone and the achievements of the best among our sales force is something we owe to the Eternal tradition that has always lighted our way. And that is, to live up to our commitment to bring the best in pre-need products and services to our clientele. We in management are thankful to the officers and staff, the marketing group, sales executive and all our personnel for helping Eternal Plans live up to this honored Eternal tradition.

As we pay tribute to the spirit that fired up our success the past 20 years and to the zeal that drove us to reach our sales goals, we pray that the men and women of Eternal Plans, Inc. will never waver in pursuit of our objectives.

Thank you and *mabuhay*!

D. ANTONIETTE CABANGON-JACINTO
Vice Chairman / [illegible]
Eternal Plans, Inc.

It is a great pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to our top sales achievers who are being honored in tonight's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

We have resiliently withstood a turbulent season of economic and political upheavals. Our faith dictates that Somebody up there truly loves us because we have survived 20 years as a major pre-need company with glory. This is evidenced by our achievements for the year 2000.

During the past few years, we reeled from one economic crisis after another, yet we worked hard in coming up with better products and services for our people. We can say that our doubled efforts have succeeded in maintaining our status as one of the major players in the field of pre-need.

For this, in behalf of our Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of Eternal Plans, Inc., I express our gratitude to our undaunted sales force whose firm commitment to deliver quality pre-need products and services, made our viability as a pre-need company possible.

I am confident that as we prepare to meet more challenges, the same spirit of commitment to serve the Filipino people will guide our way to more sales achievements ahead.

DOMINGO R. ALMONINA, JR.
EVP & General Manager
Eternal Plans, Inc.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Living in harmony in Happy Hallow

BY FRANK CIMATU
Baguio City

BAGUIO City is, as friend Padma Perez would have it, the best place to get lost. If you really wander aimlessly along Camp John Hay, you will end up in a village called Happy Hallow. Only a few residents know about this place.

Happy Hallow is Baguio 50 years ago, the 250-hectare Shangri-La of the Kankanaeys and Ibalois. The main agricultural crop here is still mountain rice.

Nine clans comprise the 300 households in Happy Hallow. About half of the population earns between P1,000 and P3,000 a month, but the people make do with what they grow and raise.

They have been living in such harmony that the etymology of the place is "Happy Halo" or a gleeful mix. People still adhere to their traditions, so much so that Camp John Hay Development Corp. plans to "showcase" Happy Hallow as a traditional village that tourists can gawk at.

The wooden cabinets of the proud elders literally hold the skeletons of their forefathers wrapped in death blankets. The people still follow old customs, like the three-day *cañao* (native feast), which follows a wedding or death or certain stages of rice planting, where an animal is sacrificed in a ritual attended by the whole community.

But Happy Hallow's remoteness is also its undoing.

The Baguio Water District did not decide to include it in its water system for the city. Happy Hallow has to rely on its traditional water system.

In the low-lying parts of the village, they use bamboo for pipes. They also employ the *kolukol* or redirecting the spring to the fields through irrigation canals. Only about 10 hectares are irrigated in this process.

Quenching the thirst of 270 households may mean moving mountains. But in the case of Happy Hallow, it means preserving and regreening the mountains.

The story of the Happy Hallow Watershed project has been so inspiring that it was cited for exemplifying innovative development approaches toward sustainable environmental preservation by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), through the Philippine-Australia Community Assistance Program (Pacap).

The project, together with its co-proponent, the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, will be given the award by Australian Ambassador John Buckley.

The Happy Hallow Tribal Council Inc., formed by the nine clans to strengthen their bid to acquire an ancestral domain claim, became the partner-beneficiary of the reforestation project, which started in 1998.

Other groups that lent a hand are the BWD, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Baguio Regreening Movement.

The people rehabilitated the village's 30-hectare watershed area, including planting 8,000 seedlings of various tree species. They also established two nurseries that can maintain 20,000 seedlings.

To check the recurring problem of forest fires, a fire-fighting group was trained. Its members learned forest fire-fighting techniques, like ring weeding and firebreak construction. The group was also tasked with protecting the forest from encroachment.

Knowing men could not live by planting trees alone, the JVOFI and AusAID also provided livelihood projects to the Happy Hallow people. At first, the people were remiss with their loan repayments until the loan scheme was revised to allow the people to pay only when they are able to do so.

In the end, many of them were able to propel their businesses.

Benita Shaley, for one, was able to use the loans to expand her hog breeding. The micro-financing scheme was able to establish a 94-percent repayment rate.

The JVOFI was able to develop eight main water sources providing 160 households with access to potable water. The villagers also decided to bill each household P5 a month (Baguio has one of the highest water rates in the country) for the maintenance of the water system. The *kolukol* system was also retained.

Because the watershed (and 140-150 hectares of the barangay) is situated within Camp John Hay, the HHTCI was required to secure permission regarding any improvement.

The JVOFI was able to expedite deals between John Hay and Happy Hallow.

Having water coming up to you is something we often ignore, but for the Happy Hallow people, this is a dream come true.

Ana Esteban used to close her *sari-sari* store just so she could fetch water.

Cleaning the pigpen and watering her vegetable garden used to make up the day for Mary Pataras. Now, the faucet is right in her backyard. Now Pataras can breathe easier.

Baguio, because Happy Hallow's watershed is part of the city's lungs, can also breathe easier.

THE UNDISTURBED ancestral land of Ibaloi and Kankanaey families in Baguio City's Happy Hallow; (inset) an elderly resident argues against a proposal to fence portions of her village in a recent forum.

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO

Cadet Domingo's unfulfilled dream

BY RUSSELL ARADOR
AND RONALD DIZON
Tarlac

THE TWO-STORY wood-and-concrete house in Barangay Poblacion B in Camiling, Tarlac, where the remains of Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo were laid in wake, appeared like it would fall apart anytime. It creaked under the weight of a 9-year-old child.

But it was in a much better condition now than before Edward entered the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City two years ago.

By scrimping on his allowance at the academy, he was able to have the old and dilapidated house repaired. The job was half-finished, though. The concrete ground floor was unpainted and had no door.

Edward, who used to receive a monthly stipend of P2,500 from the PMA, gave half of his money to his mother Leonida, said Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion Jr., PMA assistant superintendent.

"It will never be finished now," a teary-eyed relative lamented while taking a gloomy look at the house owned not by Edward's family but by an uncle living in the United States.

"*Nakakahinayang. Si* Edward *pa naman ang inaasahang mag-aangat sa kabuhayan ng pamilya niya. Pero ngayong patay na siya, nawalan na lahat kami ng pag-asa, lalung-lalo na ang nanay niya't mga kapatid* (I feel sorry. Edward was the family's only hope for a better life. Now that he's dead, all of us, especially his mother and siblings, have lost hope)," she told the INQUIRER.

Edward, 23, died on the night of March 10 at the Fort del Pilar Station Hospital in Baguio after he was hazed by four upper class cadets. He suffered from cardio-respiratory arrest as a result of blows he received in the lower part of the rib cage.

Days before he died, Edward, the third hazing fatality in the 103-year-old elite military school, called up his 44-year-old mother to inform her that he had just passed his examinations. He even bought a pair of shoes for his 12-year-old brother, who was due to graduate from elementary school.

Originally a member of Class 2003, Edward had flunked some subjects, sending him a year back to Class 2004.

Edward was his mother's only hope in plucking the family out of poverty. As a laundry woman, she had been earning less than P2,000 a month without other sources of income to meet the family's daily needs. He had wanted an education and the PMA was his only hope.

In fact, Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., PMA superintendent, told reporters that when they fetched Edward's mother in Camiling, she did not immediately ask what happened but was worried about the dirty clothes that she would be leaving.

"What she told us was: '*Paano na ang mga labahin ko? May bagong tanggap pa naman ako para bukas* (How about the dirty clothes that I would wash? I have accepted these and are needed tomorrow)," recalled Carranza.

THE LATE Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo with a friend.

Sergio Jr., the dead cadet's 21-year-old brother, said he did not harbor any ill-feeling against Edward's suspected tormentors—Cadets Third Class John Louie Ong, Michael Perang, Willard Aperocho and Omar Julius Labajo—but "I pray that the death of my brother will be given justice."

"*Bawal ang* hazing, *di ba? Pero bakit nila ginawa pa iyon? Sana mabigyan ng katahimikan ang pagkakamatay ng kapatid ko* (Hazing is illegal, right? Why did they do that? I hope that my brother's death would be given justice)," he said.

Edward's other siblings—Ronald, Rod and Rowena—also wanted justice for their *kuya* (elder brother) although it would never bring him back to life.

"*Mahirap na nga kami, nawalan pa kami ng kapatid na tanging pag-asa namin para makaangat sa kahirapan* (We're already poor and yet we lost a brother who was our only hope out of poverty)," they said.

Sergio Jr. said it was their father's dream that Edward become a cadet at the PMA. Sergio Sr. was a retired Army lieutenant who died of leukemia in 1998 at age 78. Two days into their father's wake, Edward took the PMA entrance examinations in Tarlac City. The family learned about this when the results came out and Edward was one of those who made it.

Good student

Lourdes Mejia, Edward's Grade 6 adviser, said his death "deeply saddened not only her but all of Edward's former teachers."

She remembered Edward as a bright, hardworking and thoughtful student. "Edward did not belong to the honor roll from Grade 1 to Grade 5. When he was in Grade 6, I noticed that he was intelligent. So I asked his former teachers why and I was informed that he sometimes failed to do his projects and assignments because he was helping his mother earn a living. That's why he devoted less time to school work," she said.

She offered Edward her help, which he did not readily accept. "I told him to just inform me if he had problems in his studies and I would readily help him. I did help him. I would give him materials whenever he had school projects."

She sent him to join academic competitions. At first, she said, Edward refused because he thought he was not good enough. "But while he wouldn't win, he wouldn't be at the end of the list either," she said.

Over time, Edward developed self-confidence. On the day it was announced that he would graduate salutatorian, "everybody was pleasantly surprised."

Weeks before graduation, his teachers egged him to give a "blowout." He appeared embarrassed and walked away. Minutes later, he was back, holding cones of ice cream and offering these to his teachers.

"We were touched by that simple gesture," Mejia said.

She said she could not forget Edward, "that is why I cried a lot when I learned that he died."

"*Patawarin sana ako ng Diyos pero bakit naman katulad pa ni* Edward *ang hinahayaan niyang mamatay* (May God forgive me but why does He allow people like Edward to die)?" she said.

Mejia said she felt "sorry" for the parents of the four suspects in Edward's killing: "*Nakakahiya sila. Sinira nila ang magandang image ng* PMA (They should be ashamed. They ruined the PMA's good image)."

Corazon Arellano, Edward's Grade 4 teacher, said she remembered him to be her "most responsible student."

"He would arrive early in the morning every day. That was why he had been assigned to carry the classroom keys with him. He was always responsible," she said.

"Of all people, *bakit siya pa. Inaasahan pa naman siya ng kanyang mga magulang. Nakakalungkot talaga* (Why him? His mother depends on him. It's too sad)," she added.

Edward's classmates remembered him as their "Manong," partly because he was older than most of his classmates and also because of his leadership abilities.

"He was a natural leader. Whenever there's a project or a mission, he was the first to volunteer," said a female classmate.

In his application form, he said he wanted to pursue the military dreams of his father. "I wanted to enter public service when I finally retire," Edward wrote.

But the family of "Domeng," as his classmates fondly called Edward, will get a little help from his classmates.

The 300 members of PMA Class 2004 have decided to form a foundation to help the schooling of Edward's siblings.

Purificacion said Domingo's classmates decided to shell out P1,000 each for the foundation. "Some even gave more," he said.

The monthly interest from the fund will be given to Domingo's siblings. "Since this is a foundation, contributions from others (will also be accepted)," he said.

With a report from Frank Cimatu

Thai cadet joins 193 PMA grads

BY GOBLETH MOULIC
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City

FIVE years after a Singaporean graduated from the 103-year-old Philippine Military Academy, another foreign cadet, this time a Thai, will be among the 194 graduates of the PMA Kaakibat Class of 2001 on Sunday.

Cadet First Class Mongkol Nongklangnam Khom-Arwut, of Banlao Sungmen, Phrae, Thailand, ranked 40th in the PMA merit roll this year.

Khom-Arwut is the fifth Thai to graduate from the PMA, Asia's premier military institution, after World War II, according to the Academy Scribe, the academy yearbook.

The last Thai graduate was Thawip Poonsiri Netniyom of Bangkok, a member of Dimalupig Class of 1981.

Thaval Sawangpunka, of Thamai Chundaburi, Thailand, made history in 1960 when he became the first foreign cadet among 60 young men to graduate after World War II.

Among Sawangpunka's classmates is former Air Force commanding general Loven Abadia.

Four Americans graduated from the academy in succeeding years. They were Eckwood Solomon Jr. (1963), Franklin Besecker (1966), William Geier Jr. (1967) and Robert Dance (1968).

Another Thai, Sittiporn Veraphrase Patarasen, of Bangkok, graduated after Sawangpunka. Patarasen belongs to Marangal Class of 1974.

Two years later, Turmromsack Vadhnasoti Deemongkol graduated as member of the Magilas Class of 1976.

The Singaporeans, however, practically dominated the PMA from 1977 to 1996 after eight Singaporean cadets graduated from the academy during that period.

According to the Academy Scribe, 19 foreign cadets have graduated from the PMA since 1960. Of this number, eight are Singaporeans, five Thais, four Americans and two Malaysians.

Cadet First Class Goh Peng Lee is the most recent graduate among the eight Singaporeans. Lee is the only foreign cadet among the 251 graduates of Mabikas Class of 1996.

Among all foreign cadets, Singaporean Ho Sun Yee shone brightest for graduating at the top of the 139-member Makatarungan Class on Feb. 18, 1978.

Yee garnered the most coveted Presidential Saber, the symbol of academic excellence, for topping the PMA's merit roll. He received the Presidential Saber from then President Ferdinand Marcos.

4 foreigners

The only class with the most number of foreigners (one Thai, one Singaporean, one Taiwanese and one American) was Makatarungan of 1978. They were Yee, Thai Supakit Wanpenn, Nationalist Chinese Hsueh Chao Yung and American Anthony Mark Carmichael.

But academy records showed Wanpenn was discharged from the PMA for academic deficiency. Yung, on the other hand, was recalled by the Taiwanese government during his third class year due to the abrogation of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Republic of China.

Carmichael resigned during the "beast barracks" training on April 16, 1974. The "beast barracks" is the elementary training of a new cadet before he joins the corps. It refers to the barracks occupied by the cadets during training.

It was in 1980 when the first Malaysian graduated from the academy. Bin Abu Seman Yaakub of Alor Star, Kasah, is the only foreign cadet among the 143-member Mapitagan Class of 1980.

Abu Sarin Bin Baha of Dimalupig Class of 1981 is the second Malaysian to graduate from the PMA.

The acceptance of foreign cadets is arranged between the Philippine government and other governments under a military exchange program.

Upon their graduation, foreign cadets return to their countries to serve in their armed forces.

Senate debate on listing stalled

(From page A1)

floor last night allowed a special registration for first time voters (aged 18 to 21 years) and for older age groups that failed to register for the May 14 polls.

The Senate committees on finance and on electoral reforms adopted the Commission on Election's figures that there were three million voters who failed to register after the 1998 national elections. These include 2.4 million first time voters and 600,000 from older age groups.

Senators John Osmeña, Robert Jaworksi and Anna Dominique Coseteng wanted to present amendments to the Senate bill during the plenary session today.

Coseteng asked her colleagues not to rush voting for the bill, saying she had questions about the integrity of the Comelec's voters' list.

Coseteng said that 8,000 letters she sent to her constituents this year were returned to her because the addressees had moved to another location, were already dead, or could not be found. She wanted to know if the Comelec had updated its voters' list.

Cayetano said the bill has several safeguards. Registration will be held at the barangay level, not at the municipal level, and will be conducted by the board of election inspectors instead of the election registration boards. There will be a separate list for the special registrants and they will use a special ballot that would have a different watermark. There will be no overprinting of these official ballots.

Sen. Vicente Sotto, acting chair of the Senate committee on electoral reform, said the committees came up with the April 7 date to give the Comelec enough time for the "inclusion and exclusion proceedings, collation and consolidation of voters' registration papers, printing of voting paraphernalia and delivery of these ballots."

Clockwork precision

He said Comelec officials have admitted that the success of the special registration was premised on "clockwork-like precision on a 24-hour basis."

At the House of Representatives, Dilangalen called on the entire House leadership to resign "because they don't know the rules of the House." But several times he was either ignored or blocked by the day's presiding officer, Deputy Speaker for Luzon Carlos Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya.

At one point, the session hall resonated with Padilla's repeated pounding of the gavel to drown out Dilangalen's insistent cries of "Point of order, Mr. Speaker! Point of order, point of order, point of order…!"

In a press conference earlier, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte said the House would pass the special registration law regardless of how many are expected to enlist.

He said the Comelec has assured Congress that it would lay down an "apparatus designed to catch the maximum number of registrants."

Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco said results of the ongoing precinct mapping project could be used to track down multiple and flying voters who might take advantage of the special registration. ***With reports from Gerald Lacuarta in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'I did not plot vs Erap'

(From page A1)

Joseph Ejercito Estrada. That, according to most commentators, precipitated the collapse of the administration.

Again, I told myself that if yesterday I had what it took to withdraw support from my former commander in chief, then today, I should have what it takes to go to Malacañang and face the man.

I would like to believe that when I withdrew support from the President, I withdrew support only from my commander in chief. I did not desert a friend.

The first part of my mission was for my country.

This second part was for a friend.

After the inauguration, I skipped the press conference and proceeded directly to Malacañang. I asked Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, AFP vice chief of staff, to join me because he was the former head of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and knew his way around the palace.

General Calimlim joined me in the car so we could talk. Because he had known the former President longer and better, I asked how he thought Mr. Estrada might react once he agreed to receive me. He said his guess was that Mr. Estrada would be furiously mad at me.

My psychological preparation for the encounter was simple. I told myself that whatever he would say or do, I was not going to react. I was not going to say anything. I was just going to take it.

We entered through the Nagtahan Gate of Malacañang Park because approaches to the front gates were blocked by anti-Estrada demonstrators.

My aides warned me that what we were doing might not be safe. I told them not to worry, to do away with the long firearms and to stay some distance from me. The officers and men of the PSG are professionals. They would not harm their chief of staff over what had happened.

A barge took us across the Pasig River to the other side of Malacañang.

As we walked through the Palace grounds, I saw obviously sleepless presidential guards, many looking forlorn and perplexed.

I entered the Presidential Residence (PR) and there I saw some members of the Cabinet, some local government officials, the former President's relatives, friends, and members of the household. Some cast meaningful glances as if asking first of all, "Why did you do it?" And second: "What are you doing here?" The nerve of this man to be here at all. Not one person came to me. I wanted to be escorted before the presence of Mr. Estrada.

I wanted desperately to face the man, if only to tell him that my withdrawal of support was a difficult decision that had to be made for the greater good. That it was nothing personal. I sought to achieve even partial closure with a good friend.

I saw JV Ejercito at the far end of the hall. Among the children, I was closest to him. I approached him, we shook hands and embraced.

The former President was upstairs with the other members of the family.

I was concerned that he might proceed to his car directly. So, I stood at the foot of the stairs.

While waiting, I saw former Local Government Secretary Ronnie Puno. I requested him to inquire from the President whether he wanted to see me. Secretary Puno went upstairs. It was taking some time so I followed upstairs.

Along the second floor hallway, the family was assembled in front of the image of Jesus Christ.

I saluted the former President and he said "*Sandali lang, nagdarasal lang kami ng pamilya* ko." ("Wait for a while, I am having a prayer with my family.")

I stood behind the family throughout the prayers.

After the prayer, the family went down the stairs ahead of me. Again, I was afraid he might go straight to the car. On the ground floor, he went around the hall thanking members of the household. I took the opportunity to stand near the door so he would not miss me.

When he was approaching the door, I saluted again. He acknowledged my salute and motioned me to follow him to a grouping of chairs in the hall.

He sat down. He asked me to sit in the chair next to him.

We talked. It must have lasted 30 minutes. He did not raise his voice. There was no emotional outburst. If he was mad, he did not show it. I think he was more disappointed than mad. What we talked about, I consider private and not for public dissemination.

After we talked, he stood up, I saluted him again and he held me by the shoulder.

When the former President was leaving the PR, I saw Jude Estrada. Because he holds the rank of captain in the reserve force, he saluted me and we shook hands. I saw Mayor Jinggoy Estrada. We shook hands, too. Finally, the former first lady Dr. Loi Estrada turned to me and said: "Please, no vindictiveness."

The family walked to board the barge that would take them to the other side of the Pasig River. There, the convoy of vehicles was waiting to bring them to Polk Street.

Before he was to board his car I saluted him again. He acknowledged my salute and said: "*Kumusta na lang kay Kumare. Kumusta na lang sa mga inaanak* ko." ("Regards to the Missus. Regards to my godchildren.") I didn't know what to say. And that was how it ended.

Let me now start from the beginning of my anguished search for a constitutional answer. The why and how of the events of Jan. 19-20, 2001 from my perspective.

Personal pain

I would have wanted to remain silent for two reasons. First, I did not want to claim credit for what was essentially the triumph of countless brave and nameless Filipinos who stood up for truth and justice. For, as we all know, there is an inherent danger in overly highlighting the role of the military in political events within a democratic society. And, second, to be honest, my decision that Friday, Jan. 19, 2001 came at the cost of great personal pain. But after the events of Jan. 19, people—friends, journalists, acquaintances and ordinary citizens—have been asking me the inevitable question: "Why did the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) 'defect' from the Estrada government?" Or, more specifically: "Why did I 'turn my back' on my former commander in chief?"

From a broader perspective, people want to know and understand the legal basis behind my decision, in consultation with other key officers, to withdraw AFP support from the then duly elected President.

I have realized that if I do not explain how the events unfolded within the AFP from my vantage point, others will—and their narration might not be totally accurate. And, indeed, the first few accounts that I had read, heard or watched in the mass media had been full of speculation about what I did, what I said, why I acted this or that way, and even how I felt.

This left me no choice but to relate what really happened, for nobody else could have known what was in my mind, what I did and what I felt during those critical times.

Also, I have been accused of casting my lot with the opposition forces at the "eleventh hour"—ostensibly to steal the thunder from maverick military elements who had been covertly supporting the anti-Estrada administration political agenda. This impression needs to be corrected.

Mental framework

Before I dwell on the events, I must explain the process by which I make decisions—particularly, critical decisions. This process—or inclination, if you will—perhaps stems from my family upbringing (both my parents were teachers), the strategic mindset implanted by the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the rigorous case study discipline ingrained by the civilian academic institutions that I am fortunate to have entered.

Thinker

Cogito ergo sum (I think, therefore I am). With those words, the French thinker Rene Descartes carved the ground for his stream of philosophy. In my case, it might be said in a slightly facetious vein: I think—that's been my problem.

Life would have been much simpler for me perhaps if I thought less and, like the stereotype of the soldier, just contented myself with following orders or reacting to events as they unfold. That way, I would not run the risk of wading into political waters, which conventional wisdom deems taboo for men in uniform.

But, as I said, I have been reared and trained to be a thinking person. This essentially means that I analyze situations based on a framework that permits me to think things through with the clarity of mind and the psychological strength necessary for a sound decision.

If a contemplated course of action has an internal logic that is consistent with my mental framework, then I go with it.

In examining the events leading up to Jan. 19, I used a framework that encompasses the role of the AFP in political affairs and, more specifically, the multi-level responsibilities of the AFP chief of staff.

That framework goes deep into the principles of democratic government, such as the concept of the "social contract" formulated by Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, which find expression in the Philippine Constitution.

At the heart of these principles is the preeminent sovereignty of the people upon which all democratic governments are based. People ratify the Constitution, which essentially reflects their sovereign intention on how they want to be governed, and, on that basis, elects their representatives to government.

AFP role

In this framework, the AFP is cast as an instrument by which to protect the people and the state from all threats to their security and existence.

These threats can come from foreign invaders, terrorists, insurgents, secessionists, criminals, coup plotters and even natural calamities. Internal threats can come from forces in the political Left, Right or Center that use extra-constitutional means in an attempt to seize power or to subvert the popular will.

The AFP operates on several levels of responsibility: to the internal chain of command; to duly constituted authorities, headed by the President; to the Constitution; and, above all, to the Filipino people.

In this context, the AFP chief of staff must understand the layering of his own responsibilities.

At the lowest level, it is his job to maintain an effective, efficient, professional and cohesive military organization.

On another plane, he must respect the authority of his civilian superiors, led by the commander in chief of the AFP—the President.

Going a step higher, the chief of staff must abide by the form and spirit of the Constitution, defending and upholding it to the extent that even he would be in no position to violate the fundamental law of the land.

At the highest level, he must lead the AFP in protecting the will and welfare of the people but still adhering to the principles of the Constitution—to discern what would promote the public good under extreme circumstances.

In critical situations, the Armed Forces acts as an anchor to help maintain political stability. Political groups would push and pull at the center—seeking redress of grievances, expressing their positions on issues via rallies, press conferences, demonstrations and other forms of mass action and propaganda.

As long as the political tension is maintained along constitutional lines, the AFP should have little trouble helping keep the ship of state on even keel.

Military intervention in political affairs must only be considered as a last recourse and in a manner that would be consistent with constitutional principles.

The AFP must watch the dynamics of a tense political situation very closely, taking great care not to let it go out of hand and imperil the security of the nation and the well-being of the people.

But any such situation tends to develop a life of its own, and when it reaches a point of irreversibility, the chief of staff must carefully weigh extreme constitutional options at the disposal of the AFP to maintain social order.

One might call this framework my strategic mindset.

3 steps for a decision

At the tactical level, I have taken to heart the advice of a British professor who analyzed effective decision-making on the part of commanders going into battle.

The first step, he says, is to **collect all your fears.** Gather your staff to study the situation properly and thoroughly. Clarify all the "what if" questions.

For example, what if the logistics do not arrive on time? What if low tide—or daybreak—sets in? What if the enemy makes a strategic retreat to lure your forces deep into their territory?

Study all the options. Be well-prepared.

The second step, the professor says, is to **consult a mentor.** The mentor is defined as someone who will give you a fresh, objective point of view, someone you trust, someone who has your welfare at heart. Your mentor could be a guru, or a relative, or a friend.

The **third step is to consult with yourself.** For what purpose would you decide on this course of action? Do you have a personal agenda? Is this for a noble cause? Can you live with your conscience? Only after you have gone through this process must you **decide.**

After having decided, the final step is to **cast away all your fears.** Focus on moving forward to accomplish your mission. Do not hesitate. Do not vacillate. Do not waver. As a commander, you must remember that fear is contagious—but so is courage. .

Taken together these strategic and tactical road maps equip me with the framework to think clearly at every major crossroad. Without this framework, events would easily overtake and engulf me. I would not be able to decide on a crucial course of action until it is too late.

To avert disaster

The notion of "defection" by me or by the AFP does not have a place within my strategic framework.

We are sworn to protect the Filipino people, the Constitution, the Republic and the institutions of government—not any particular political party, pressure, or vested interest group.

When we decided to withdraw our support from the Estrada government, we did so not because this was the popular thing to do or because we wanted to take sides.

Our decision had nothing to do with the innocence or guilt of Mr. Estrada. That was for the courts to decide. It had nothing to do with the issue of morality in governance either, for only heaven has jurisdiction over this realm We made the decision because it was the only constitutional option left to avert a colossal disaster for the nation.

As the AFP, we looked not at the past but at the future. Decision-making is always forward looking. When we decided, we measured the repercussions on the people over the long term, of action or inaction.

Non-interventionist

I have always maintained that I am a constitutional, non-interventionist soldier who had been designated to lead a professional, non-partisan Armed Forces.

Viewing the position of the chief of staff and the AFP any other way would place Philippine democracy in perpetual jeopardy. In the volatile political situation that obtained during those weeks, the AFP's task was to hold the line, to defend the constitutional processes and to avoid intervening as much and as long as possible.

Hence, any decision by the military as an institution to intervene in political matters for what it deems to be constitutional reasons must be made only on the eleventh hour, as dictated by events outside its direct control. It would be inconceivable—lest we entertain the notion of turning the Philippines into a banana republic—for the AFP to ally itself with political forces plotting to undermine an existing government of which it is part.

Viewed from the top of the military organization, the AFP chief of staff should not go against the government and duly constituted authorities unless it becomes clear that the government has lost control over the situation. That in itself requires delicate judgement. If he intervenes and there is a chance that the Government could still remedy the situation, he would be doing the government a great injustice.

No plot vs Erap

It is therefore with a clear conscience that I can state that I did not plot against the Estrada government. That would have been an act of treachery. My decision was not directed against the government. It was to protect the government against forces ready to take advantage of the situation for their own ends.

Throughout a highly fluid period when things were moving very fast and decision-making had to keep pace, I strove to be true to my mandate, true to the Constitution.

All future studies of military intervention will cite this extremely difficult case. In the years to come, historians will continue to debate whether or not I made a constitutionally correct decision on the 19th of January 2001. But a decision had to be made, and I am willing to stand by the judgement of history.

Comelec mum . . .

(From page A1)

The draft resolution has yet to be approved by the en banc and thus could still be open for revisions and fine-tuning, the source added.

Delfin Perez, chair of the NPC Quick Count Committee, claimed the Comelec en banc, or all the six commissioners and the chair, voted to authorize the NPC to conduct a quick count using the seventh copy of the certificate of votes at the precinct level.

Earlier, it was reported that Namfrel was allowed by the en banc, by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco inhibiting herself, to conduct a quick count using the sixth copy of the election return at the precinct level.

Election returns contain the complete tabulation of the voting results and have seven copies; certificates of votes contain only the final tally of the votes written in words and figures and have six copies.

"The Namfrel and National Press Club were accredited on equal footing," NPC's Perez said. "It is clear that we were both accredited but emphasis is being given to the Namfrel."

He urged the Comelec to release its official resolution "as soon as possible to put an end to all these speculations."

"So many reports have been flying here and there . . . Namfrel has been taking advantage of the situation by engaging in black propaganda," Perez said.

He accused Namfrel of resorting to "trending," or conditioning the public's mind that Namfrel alone would conduct the quick count.

"We were both accredited but the National Press Club is being given low-profile exposure in the media," Perez said. "It's clear that in the process of accreditation and in the release of unofficial results (of the quick count petitions) that Namfrel was guilty of trending."

'Misquoted'

Perez said even Tancangco had denied that only Namfrel was accredited: "We heard she was complaining that she had been misquoted."

Tancangco however was not available for comment yesterday. But she told the INQUIRER on Monday that both the NPC and Namfrel were likely to be authorized to hold a quick count. She refused to give details pending the release of the Comelec resolution.

Perez said it would be difficult to conduct a joint quick count with the Namfrel because "oil and water don't mix."

"If we hold separate quick counts it would be good because there would be check and balance," he said.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said he would not mind if the NPC would conduct a separate quick count, but he expressed doubts about the capability of the NPC to conduct its own count.

"*Bahala sila* (Let them be), it doesn't really matter to us," Concepcion said.

He said NPC might not be able to field its members and volunteers to all 229,999 precincts nationwide.

"Will they be the ones to get the copies (of the certificates of votes)?" Concepcion asked. "That is not a sideline where you can just pick and go because they must keep watch on all the precincts."

Concepcion said Namfrel was ready to mobilize its 300,000 volunteers nationwide, but they were still waiting for the official Comelec resolution.

Namfrel has been the country's election watchdog in 17 electoral exercises, starting with the 1984 Batasang Pambansa elections.

As Comelec's citizens' arm, it has conducted "quick count" operations in 13 elections since 1984, including the historic 1986 "snap" presidential polls.

Republic Act 8173 authorizes the accredited citizens' arm to conduct an unofficial count and get the sixth copy of the election returns.

GMA scared of military, leftists claim

(From page A1)

In Manila, Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said the President should have chosen "competent and able civilian" for the defense portfolio "in consonance with the democratic principle of civilian supremacy (over the military)."

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said the appointment of Reyes as defense secretary "is a clear indication of militarization in the civilian bureaucracy."

Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said the increasing presence of "militarist minds" in the Cabinet could be "fatal" to the peace negotiations with communist and Moro rebels.

Ocampo said that previous peace talks had collapsed because of intervention from generals.

The presence of yet another "voice of hawks" in the civilian government could spoil the efforts to attain lasting peace.

"People are wary of Reyes' militarist approach and mindset, a parallel conviction he shared with his protégé, now AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva," he said.

He said the appointment of two "veterans" of the Estrada administration's all-out-war in Mindanao "is not welcome news, unless Ms Macapagal exercises her powers and prerogatives as commander in chief of the Armed Forces and rein in the two warriors from making their presence felt during the talks,"

Ocampo said Reyes and his pet general Villanueva had led the military assault in Mindanao last year that displaced more than 700,000 civilians. "How then could we talk peace, if elements hostile to peace are still in the government?" he asked.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos warned that the appointment of Reyes would lead to more human rights abuses.

The KMP noted that the counter-insurgency program "Oplan Makabayan" that Reyes had implemented during his stint as AFP chief resulted in at least 200 human rights violations a day that included illegal arrests and detention, "salvaging" and massacres.

Silent coup?

Casiño said Reyes' appointment hit a sensitive spot among people's organizations, cause-oriented groups, human rights advocates, civil libertarians and other political forces that helped oust Estrada.

"Why is the military allowed to dominate sensitive government posts that rightfully belong to civilians? Is the military mounting a silent coup?" he said.

Casiño was referring to the appointments of Renato de Villa, a retired general, as executive secretary; Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco as National Bureau of Investigation director; Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim as Task Force Anti-Smuggling chief; Maj. Gen. Adelberto Yap as Air Transport Office chief; Brig. Gen. Eliseo M. Rio Jr. as National Telecommunications Commission chief; and, Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa as head of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office.

"It is pathetic to know that Macapagal-Arroyo and the entire nation are being held hostage by the military factions fighting among themselves. She is clearly pandering to these factions, to the detriment of the national interest and such principles as civilian supremacy (over the military) and democracy," Casiño said.

Review Reyes' record

Asked if the appointments of generals to civilian posts amounted to a growing militarization of the bureaucracy, Ms Macapagal answered in the negative.

"I choose my appointees in accordance with their individual qualifications and their ability to help me achieve my goals," she said.

She said those she had picked to be part of her Cabinet came from all sectors and the "criteria here is that they can perform their job to help me do my job."

Ms Macapagal said Reyes could be considered someone more inclined to civilian work than actual military combat operations.

The President said a review of Reyes' records showed that he had studied at the Ateneo de Manila, the Asian Institute of Management and Harvard University.

His past assignments in his military career would show that many of them "were not combat assignments," Ms Macapagal noted.

"So even if he is a soldier, he is very suited for a civilian post like defense," she said.

Reyes, who reported at the Palace for his first day of work as a civilian official, asked critics to examine their own view of military personnel in government.

Don't stereotype

"When an officer retires from the service, he is already a civilian. So, this stereotyping of military people as having the so-called military mind should be examined very closely," he said.

Reyes said military men could sometimes "appreciate better the civilian perspective, the civilian point of view than civilians themselves."

Reyes also reacted strongly to reports that he got the top defense post as reward for his withdrawal of support for Estrada at the "11th hour."

"I don't have to be rewarded for anything. I don't see myself trying to make capital out of what happened. I would like to believe that I was chosen because the appointing authority thought I could do a good job," he said.

He said he was humbled by his appointment. "I hope I can measure up to the expectation of the President and this office."

He assured that because of his appointment the "divisiveness and jockeying" for the post "is a thing of the past."

In Mindanao, Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro National Liberation Front (MILF), said "the ideal person to the post should be a non-military personnel."

"Although Reyes now is considered a civilian, he still has that military mentality," Kabalu said.

The Khadidja Moro Women Alliance assailed Ms Macapagal for her lack of sensitivity to the feelings the Moro people when she appointed Reyes as defense secretary.

Evelyn Carias, chair of Khadidja Moro Women Alliance, said Ms Macapagal should have listened to the Moro people's call not to appoint or re-appoint officials involved in the all-out war waged by Estrada against the MILF.

Carias noted that the military's indiscriminate attacks in Central Mindanao had displaced thousands of civilians and killed hundreds of Moro people.

"Like Estrada, Reyes is also an executioner of the Moro people. He is the chief of the Armed Forces that drove thousands of our people away from their lands because of that stupid war," Carias said.

Carias said the Macapagal administration should instead order a probe of Reyes and other military officials involved in the all-out-war to determine their accountability. ***With reports from Jowel F. Canuday, Jonathan F. Ma, Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Test of putting, club selection at Sherwood

THE SCENIC finishing 18th hole of Sherwood Hills.

A WIND-BLOWN natural beauty which has charmed even its legendary designer Jack Nicklaus takes the spotlight in the P700,000 Ericsson-Smart Zed Sherwood Hills Classic, the third leg of the new Philippine Tour starting Thursday.

After tackling two courses so different in length and character, the local pros will be up against a brand-new challenge of touch putting and smart club selection at Sherwood Hills with its superfast greens and natural blowers.

The Ericsson-Smart Zed Sherwood Hills Classic will be the first full professional event to be held at the par-72,7,277-yard course, which Nicklaus carved with minimal earth-moving due to its natural terrain.

"All clubs in the bag will have to be used," said Philippine Tour chair Bob Sobrepeña. "As most of the holes carry the risk-and-reward factor, this is one big challenge they will have to be ready for."

Sobrepeña added that the new facilities of the Sherwood Hills, including its much-talked about California Mission-inspired clubhouse and driving range complete with practice greens and bunkers, make it an ideal host for big events.

Reigning Philippine Open champ Gerald Rosales and Cassius Casas, two of the country's most active campaigners abroad, headline the strongest cast to be assembled so far in the young tour.

They will be joined by Rodrigo Cuello, Danny Zarate, Canadian ace Rick Gibson and Richard Sinfuego, who ruled the Camp John Hay Open for his first pro victory. Rey Pagunsan, winner of the MRT-Southwoods Open, is a doubtful starter due to an overseas commitment.

The new tour is presented by the College Assurance Plan with the solid backing of the Metro Rail Transit Corp., Fil-Estate Group of Companies and La Paz Holdings & Dev't Corp.

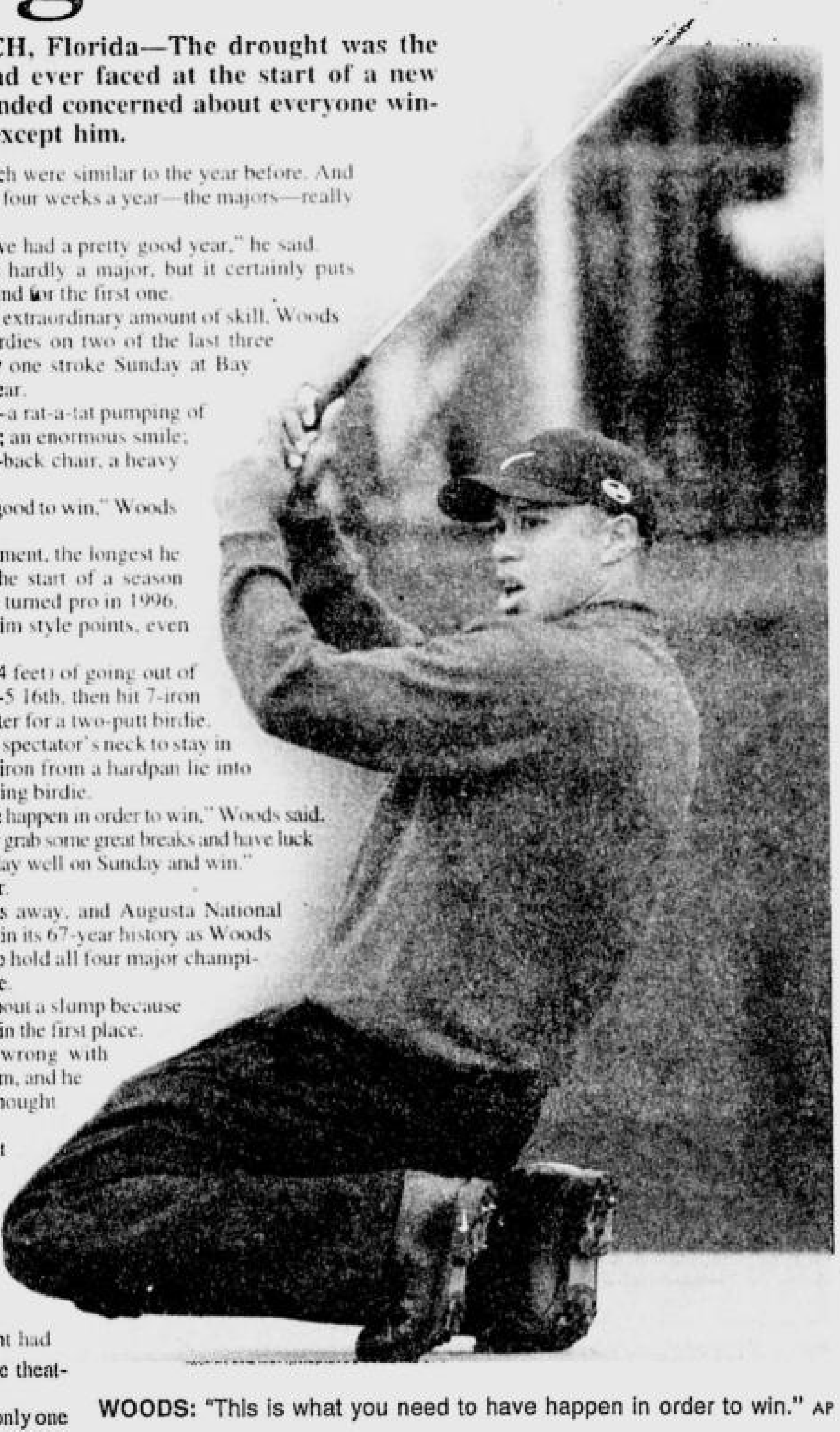
CAP is also staging the Seniors Challenge side by side with the regular tour. Roger Antonio and Mario Siodina split the first two legs between them and went on to register impressive finishes against their younger rivals in the extension of their mission.

The ever present threat of Gibson, now a permanent resident here, will also hound the title hopefuls especially after his steady showing of second and fourth in the opening legs.

The winning pro gets 100,000, runner-up P50,000, third-placer P34,000 with prizes scaled down all the way to the 30th finisher.

Tiger: It always feels good to win

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—The drought was the longest Tiger Woods had ever faced at the start of a new season, but he never sounded concerned about everyone winning on the PGA Tour except him.



WOODS: "This is what you need to have happen in order to win." AP

He pointed to his scores, which were similar to the year before. And more than once, he said that only four weeks a year—the majors—really matter.

"Win those four weeks, you've had a pretty good year," he said.

The Bay Hill Invitational is hardly a major, but it certainly puts Woods in a good frame of the mind for the first one.

With a little bit of luck and an extraordinary amount of skill, Woods turned potential disaster into birdies on two of the last three holes to beat Phil Mickelson by one stroke Sunday at Bay Hill for his first victory of the year.

His reaction spoke volumes—a rat-a-tat pumping of fists; a roar; a hug for his caddie; an enormous smile; and when he sat down in a high-back chair, a heavy sigh.

"More than anything, it feels good to win," Woods said.

It came in his seventh tournament, the longest he had gone without winning at the start of a season since it took five events after he turned pro in 1996.

His 3-under 69 won't earn him style points, even though he finished in style.

He came within 1.2 meters (4 feet) of going out of bounds with his drive on the par-5 16th, then hit 7-iron out of the rough and over the water for a two-putt birdie. Then, he got a good bounce off a spectator's neck to stay in bounds on the 18th, and hit a 5-iron from a hardpan lie into 4.5 meters (15 feet) for the winning birdie.

"This is what you need to have happen in order to win," Woods said. "You're going to have to somehow grab some great breaks and have luck on your side. You can't always play well on Sunday and win."

The timing couldn't be better.

The Masters is only 18 days away, and Augusta National will be buzzing like never before in its 67-year history as Woods tries to become the first player to hold all four major championship trophies at the same time.

There will not be any buzz about a slump because it no longer exists—if it ever did in the first place.

Questions about what was wrong with Woods' game began to annoy him, and he even took a jab at those who thought he was struggling.

"I guess if I don't win next week ... I don't know if it's a slump or not," he said.

But even Woods had to take stock of how much one victory translates into momentum. There is no better cure than winning, but Woods might have felt a little confident had he been able to win without the theatrics.

His driving was so erratic—only one fairway hit with a driver in his hands—that his goal down the stretch was to keep the ball between the out-of-bounds stakes.

Needing birdie to win on the last hole, Woods hit a "Nolan Ryan curve ball" off the 18th tee at Bay Hill and survived only with a 5-iron that was as good as any shot he hit last year.

He was in the same position two weeks ago in Dubai, hit his drive far to the right and paid the price by taking double bogey and losing to Thomas Bjorn.

When asked if the victory at Bay Hill gave him momentum, Woods paused.

"I would say yes, but the way I played today ... it would be hard to say yes," he said. "If I look back at my first three rounds, I really played good. I just scored well today. I guess that gives you positive vibes."

The dress rehearsal is this week at The Players Championship, one of the toughest tests of the year on the Stadium Course at the TPC at Sawgrass—the tightest fairways, the thickest rough and, depending on the rain that soaked the course Monday, the hardest greens.

"Obviously, I need to start hitting the ball and controlling my trajectory a little bit better," Woods said. "Going into Augusta, that's what you're going to have to do."

The Players Championship is the most prestigious tournament that does not have a mug shot of Woods on its wall of champions. He came close last year, finishing second by one stroke to a determined Hal Sutton.

No one has ever won The Players Championship and the Masters in the same year, although that won't keep Woods from trying.

"I'm motivated to win every week," he said.

But the real motivation is at Augusta, which has been in the back of his mind since the new year started. It becomes a little more clearer now, especially now that even the smallest doubts about winning have been removed. *AP*

DeMolay golf at TAT

THE FIRST Escudo DeMolay Cup golf tournament will be held on Friday at TAT Filipinas in San Pedro, Laguna.

Entry fee for playing participants is pegged at P1,800 inclusive of raffle, meal with drinks, giveaways, green fee, hole-in-one prize and one Mulligan ticket.

Non-playing participants must pay P600 to entitle them to raffle prizes, meals and drinks.

Hole-in-one prizes are a Yamaha golf cart, a Honda motorcycle and a desk top computer. Major raffle prizes are 20-inch and 14-inch color television sets, a washing machine, microwave ovens and VCD players, while minor prizes are electric fans, pocket radio and other kitchen wares.

For details, call Bro. Jerrick Gempesaw at 681-3380, Bro. Boy Acsay at 718-3031 and Bro. Joel Alimon at 890-3849.

Que paces Pagunsan

LONG-HITTING Angelo Que carded a one-over-par 73 yesterday to open up a one-stroke lead in the second leg of the Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Surviving the terrible heat, Que fired four birdies in living up to his top seeding even as his chief rival Juvic Pagunsan and longshot Godofredo Sinfuego stood just a stroke behind.

The event is actually a grudge match for Que and Pagunsan who took the first two major titles this year, the recent PAL Interclub and the DHL stroke play, respectively.

A wire-to-wire duel among the top bets took shape as Cookie LaO and Jerome Delariarte both shot 75s.

Joey Lejano led Group II while Rafael Sempo paced Group III of the tourney chiefly backed by Titleist and Footjoy. It is also sponsored in part by the Valley Golf and Country Club, Nextel, Christ T Sports, and GG&A Club Shares.

AIM golfest set Friday

THE NOKIA-AIM Golf Challenge Cup 2001 gets under way this Friday at Sta. Elena, with about 100 Asian Institute of Management (AIM) alumni, students and guests expected to compete for the major prizes.

The tournament will kick off the forthcoming Grand AIM Alumni Homecoming 2001 with the theme "AIM 2001...The Odyssey Continues" to be held on March 30 at 6 p.m. at the Rockwell Tennis Courts in Makati City.

Former finance secretary and now AIM president Bobby de Ocampo will lead the ceremonial tee-off at 7:30 a.m.

Lead host class '81 and the other alumni hosts (classes '71, '76, '86, '91 and '96) are lending full support to the tournament. Interested parties may call up Melo Bautista (884-3950), AIM Alumni Office (751-7151 to 53) or the Homecoming Secretariat (816-2809).

The Korean way

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

PHILIPPINE racing authorities and racetrack operators should take their cues from their Korean counterparts. The Korean racing industry is only eleven years old, probably among the youngest in all of Asia. At the onset, all of the horses competing for purses were imports from all over the world. Korea's racing authority is the Seoul Racehorse Owners Association (SROA). It sources all horses brought into the country for racing.

The SROA sends a five-member delegation to the breeding centers of the world, which delegation is composed of two trainers, a veterinarian, an administrator and a senior member of the association. Each horse offered by bloodstock agencies, Fasig-Tipton, Keeneland and Ocala Bloddstock in the US and OZ horse in Australia among others, is inspected. The horse must be of a specific age, type and sex. More than 50% of all horses brought into Korea are fillies and mares to augment their fledgeling breeding industry. At present, the racing industry is totally dependent on importation.

The selection team arranges for complete veterinary inspection. Should the horse pass muster, photographs are taken to form part of a portfolio of information which will then be presented to the potential race horse owner who in turn picks his new horse via a ballot system. The horse is then owned before it is even flown home.

New Zealand breeds 5000 thoroughbreds each year. About 1,500 make it into the Karaka sales series. The rest have absolutely no commercial appeal. Some will join the racing population, leaving New Zealand shores as tried race horses bound for Asian markets while others are destined for riding clubs or the glue factory.

Six of the last eleven SROA contracts to import foreign horses have been sourced from New Zealand. Since 1998, 470 young thoroughbreds have been sent up to Korea courtesy of Cheski Brown of Abderry Farm in the Waikato, and its Korean partner, United Bloodstock. Cheski, whom we have met and chatted with at Karaka over the last thirteen years, sources the horses from all over the North and South Islands. All these horses are priced to the Korean buyer at a flat NZ$3500 or the equivalent of P73,500.

The first batch of Abderry horses sent in 1998 numbered 90. Of these 52 have won, 50 are still racing. Of the winners, 34 were fillies and mares, earning them the right to become a Korean-based broodmare. It seems that only winners are allowed to be bred. Of the 470 horses shipped from New Zealand to Korea since 1998, 392 have been there long enough to race, of which, more than 200 have won a race.

We pray that the next generation of Philracom officials and racetrack operators appreciate the wisdom of importing race fillies and mares. Not only will the imports fill up the race cards, eventually they will end up in someone's paddock at the end of their racing careers. The Koreans, new to the game as they are, are long term players. Racing is the key to building their own breeding industry. How sad that our own racing and breeding industries reflect the state of the nation, quick bucks, quick fixes, and quick getaways.

Breeding individuals, not bloodlines

In our desire to help newcomers to the breeding industry, we would like to quote from an article written by Steve Roman, the foremost proponent of the Dosage System, entitled "Breeding Theories and Statistics". The long and short of the article is as follows:

"Good breeding stallions get good foals. Bad breeding stallions do not. Good mares produce good foals. Bad mares do not. It isn't an accident that typically just 1% of all the sires of starters in North America account for about 25 to 30% of all stakes wins and available purses. With that in mind, bloodlines are of secondary importance when compared to individual sires and dams. The stallion and the mare must be considered in terms of their individual attributes.

Because individual nicking patterns in the vast majority of instances are statistically insignificant and because the general compatibility of bloodlines ignores individual contribution, our view is that the best way to proceed in selecting a mating is to identify the most productive sires that are economically consistent with a particular mare and, for comfort's sake if nothing else, look for an indication that either the sire has gotten at least one or two good runners from the mare's sire line or, conversely, that the mare has already produced at least one good runner from the sire's sire line. The breeder can then invoke secondary analyses relating to potential commercial value of the offspring or, if racing rather than sales is the goal, racing type (including distance potential, surface preference, rate of maturity, etc).

Equally important is a thorough understanding of the physical compatibility of the stallion and the mare, especially with regard to conformational attributes and the degree to which these conformational characteristics have effected the performance of the progeny produced. Some form of nicking may serve as a preliminary focal point, but in the end it should never be the basis for selection. Barrera is not Mr. Prospector, although both are sons of Raise a Native. Wajima is not Secretariat, although both are sons of Bold Ruler. Anyone who believes a Barrera/Wajima foal represents the same nicking significance as a Mr. Prospector/Secretariat foal had better go back to basics."

You can find Steve Roman on his website, www.chef-de-race.com.

Antonio, Villamayor play good samaritans

By Dennis U. Eroa

TWO OF THE country's grandmasters will play good samaritans to their fellow chessers as they vowed to stake their ratings in the National Chess Open Championship starting on March 24 at the Center Mall of the Greenhills Shopping Center.

GM Joey Antonio, a six-time national champion, and fellow GM Bong Villamayor yesterday told the weekly PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn-Manila said they are taking the risks of competing in order to give others the chance to attain higher rankings.

"We're willing to sacrifice," said the 38-year-old Antonio, who has an Elo rating of 2548.

The 33-year-old Villamayor has the highest Elo among the trio with 2560. Eugene Torre, Asia's first grand master and present president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, has an Elo of 2547.

Joining Torre yesterday were secretary general Sammy Estimo and National Chess open project director Mat Defensor.

The presence of the nation's three GMs will assure the National Open of a quality field, thus giving the unrated and less-rated chessers the chance to gain much-needed norm.

"We are looking at no less than 500 chessers nationwide who will see action in this tournament," said Torre. Under his leadership, Philippine chess has shown a remarkable comeback after being in the doldrums for quite a time.

This will be the third consecutive major event being held under the auspices of the NCFP. It hosted the Asian under-16 continental championships last December in Bagac, Bataan, and the just-concluded Inter-Cities championships in Mandaluyong City.

The three GMS will see action in the semifinals starting from April 2 to 11.

Torre lauded Defensor, father of housing czar and Rep. Mike, for his crucial role in the staging of the Open .

"Mat is staking his good name in this endeavor. With him around, the NCFP enjoys solid reputation," said Torre.

Defensor said he is finalizing the list of sponsors.

"We'll announce the sponsors next week. I can assure you that with all the support we are getting, the event will be a success."

For his part, Estimo, a National Master himself, said the NCFP is determined to find new talents by holding well-planned chess events. He clarified that the NCFP is also holding tournaments in smaller scales all throughout the country.

Estimo said the Asian Zonals will be held after the Open.

"Maybe, we can use the Zonals as a springboard for hosting the 2003 World Championships. So far, the 1992 Chess Olympiad held here is considered the best ever. With the presence of Campo (Fide legend Florencio Campomanes), we can do something big," Estimo said.

Kidney games April 20-21

THE KIDNEY Transplant Association of the Philippines (Kitap), the umbrella organization of transplant recipients and organ donors nationwide, will hold the 7th Philippine National Transplant Games on April 20-21, 2001 at the center court of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI),East Avenue, Quezón City and at the Philippine Sports Commission-Philippine National Academy of Sports (PSC-PNAS) formerly Ultra, respectively.

UTAH'S JERRY SLOAN

Sixth man to coach 1,000 games with same team

LOS ANGELES —Five NBA division titles, two conference championships and 1,000 regular-season games later, the identity, philosophy and soul of the Utah Jazz have remained intact under Jerry Sloan.

Karl Malone and John Stockton have been with the coach every step of the way. So it was appropriate that the basketball franchise's two cornerstones played prominent roles in Sunday night's 111-96 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers, when Sloan became only the sixth man to coach 1,000 games with the same team.

"Just about everything we've done has gone through John and Karl," said Sloan, who replaced Frank Layden on Dec. 9, 1988. "These guys have played together their entire careers, and that's an advantage. I've gotten along pretty well with John and Karl because they've accepted the team concept."

Malone scored 34 points and Stockton added 13 points and 10 assists for the Jazz, who are a half-game behind San Antonio in the race for the best record in the Western Conference _ and just five victories away from their 10th 50-win season under Sloan with 17 games remaining.

Spurs beat Blazers

SAN ANTONIO —Derek Anderson scored 28 points and Tim Duncan tied his career high by grabbing 23 rebounds Monday night in San Antonio's 98-85 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers. It was Portland's fifth loss in six games.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Atlanta 108, L.A. Lakers 106; San Antonio 98, Portland 85; Seattle 93, Philadelphia 89. *AP*

Lewis has doubts about Tyson fight

LONDON—Britain's world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis fears his 100 million pounds (150 million dollars) bout with Mike Tyson will never be staged. Both boxers are desperate for the fight to take place, but a wrangle over television rights has been the stumbling block. Tough negotiations have to be thrashed out between rival pay-per-view networks, the champion's Home Box Office organisation and Tyson's Showtime network.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Athletes Commission reactivated

OLYMPIC head Celso Dayrit yesterday said he would reactivate the Athletes Commission. He said two of the six officials of the Athletes Commission will take part during POC general assemblies. Joseph Lizardo previously spearheaded the Athletes Commission, which became inactive after the athletes' revolt in 1993 that ousted former PSC chair Aparicio Mequi from power.

PUREFOODS-RED BULL IN GAME 1

Tanduay fights for survival vs Alaska

STANDINGS

	W	L
San Miguel	7	3
Shell	7	3
Red Bull	6	3
Pop Cola	5	4
Alaska	5	5
Mobiline	5	5
Ginebra	5	5
Purefoods	4	6
Tanduay	3	7
Sta. Lucia	2	8

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m. – Purefoods vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m. – Tanduay vs Alaska

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

IF TANDUAY Gold has any intentions left to make it to the next round, it has to start making its move today in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at Philsports.

But Alaska Milk will be forcing it away from its goal in their crucial 7:30 p.m. encounter.

At any rate, the game will be equally important for the Aces, who are smarting over a loss to San Miguel Beer over the weekend and are gearing for the top four spots in the quarterfinals.

Batang Red Bull, strongly holding the solo second spot despite a loss to Alaska, is coming from a week-long rest in facing struggling Purefoods at 5:15 p.m.

While Tanduay has a slim chance of making the eight-team quarterfinals, it has to win as many games as it can in its last four assignments.

The Aces carry the advantage over the Rhummasters, who have yet to come to terms to the changes in the lineup and the absence of a decent slotman in Eric Menk.

In contrast, Alaska's 85-75 loss to SMB in Bago City wasn't exactly because the team didn't play well. They even led in the first half and rallied to within four points in the fourth.

They lost because the Beermen overwhelmed their young, inexperienced crew.

The Thunder will again miss Mick Pennisi today but that would hardly matter because they have a complete arsenal at their disposal in the likes of Lowell Briones, Willie Miller, Kerby Raymundo and Devonn Harp.

Standing in the way are the Hotdogs, who just snapped a four-game losing run with a 74-66 win over lowly Sta. Lucia Realty last week.

Jalasco sings new tune, says he's just on leave

BY JUNE NAVARRO

JALASCO

FREDDIE Jalasco yesterday made a 180-degree turn from his earlier announcement that he would step down as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to give way to Quintellano "Tiny" Literal.

In a statement he faxed to the Inquirer, Jalascó said he was prevailed upon by members of the BAP executive board from tendering his resignation during their emergency board meeting Monday night.

Instead, Jalasco said he will take a leave of absence and then turn over the reins to former BAP president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat in contrast with his earlier decision to resign from his post.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit had announced Jalasco's resignation last week.

On Monday, three days after the annoucement of his resignation, Jalasco told the INQUIRER about his decision to step down, describing it as a "supreme sacrifice."

"This is a supreme sacrifice on my part but I will be there when basketball needs me," Jalasco said.

But in a sudden change of heart, Jalasco said he was just taking a leave of absence "to defuse the tension obtaining in Philippine basketball."

Prior to the unexpected twist, Dayrit said Jalasco agreed to be a part of a committee tasked to organize the preparations for the South East Asian Basketball Association tournament on April 2-7 in Manila.

Jalasco and Literal will sit as members while Dayrit will be the interim chairman with former PSC chair Philip Juico acting as director and spokesman.

Dayrit also said the POC executive board is set to affirm Literal's recognition as BAP head in its board meeting today.

GMA's Assumption classmate appointed PSC commissioner

PRESIDENTIAL friend Cynthia Carrion yesterday became the first appointed commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's reign.

Carrion, president of the Philippine Sports Aerobics Association, was presented before the media by PSC chair Carlos Tuason, commissioners Richie Garcia, William Ramirez and Ampáro Lim as replacement to former commissioner Leonardo Celles.

Celles resigned last month to run for a local government post in San Juan.

Founder of the 3,000-strong nationwide sports organization Women In Sports, Carrion will be heading the PSC's sectoral sports programs, Tuason said.

"In keeping with the President's objective of good governance, a result-oriented kind of management will be one of my chief aims," said Carrion, President Arroyo's classmate at Assumption College.

Carrion, who completed a business administration degree, is finishing a Masters degree in Business Administration facilitated by Australian-based Murdock University.

"With these credentials, I believe I could make a dent in the PSC," said Carrion, who got her appointment papers from the President on March 15.

As one of two women commissioners of the PSC, Carrion said she wouldn't mind working "like a man" if only to typify her passion for the development of sports.

"I don't think gender poses a problem. Her principles, not her gender, will count more in running the PSC," said Tuason.

"Her inclusion in the PSC is a welcome development since it will take some of the work load being done by the other commissioners," he added. *June Navarro*

Priceless lesson

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AIMED chiefly at getting the youngsters into sports and keeping them away from drugs during the summer months, the country's most successful and longest-running basketball school—the Milo Best Center—returns to the scene starting on March 30.

Founded in 1978 by multi-awarded Nic Jorge, a former national coach and varsity player of the University of the Philippines, BEST (Basketball Efficiency Scientific Training) pioneered in teaching the basics of basketball through a formal and systematic approach under competent instructors. Over the years, the school has taught countless boys and girls five years old and above not only the fundamentals of the game but sound values as well as discipline, sportsmanship and camaraderie, a priceless lesson these youngsters will carry through their adult life.

Ever since the center's founding, thousands have learned to play basketball the proper way. In fact, many of them have used their BEST experience as a ladder to fame and fortune in the lucrative Philippine Basketball Association. Among them are 1989 and 1999 PBA Most Valuable Player Benjie Paras of Shell, PBA Sportsmanship Awardee Jerry Codinera of Mobiline, PBA Rookie of the Year Zandro Limpot of Barangay Ginebra, Boybits Victoria of multi-titled San Miguel Beer and all-heart Gerry Esplanada, also of Shell.

The center also conducts tournaments among its outstanding students who play in the SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) series and, later on, compete in exhibition matches abroad. It also holds the Passerelle program designed to bridge the gap between mini and junior basketball. Each year, the center sends a delegation ot the Las Vegas Easter Classic which competes in three age divisions, namely: 12-under, 13-under and 15-under.

Mainly because of its tremendous success and laudable objective, many well-meaning people have taken the task of organizing the weeklong Milo BEST clinic all over Metro Manila and across the country. In Marilao, Bulacan, for instance, organizers led by sportsminded Pancho Manalad are set to give up a week of their summer to do a largely thankless job of spending time, money and efforts. But they are motivated by their past experience that this yearly session has always bridged the gap between children and their parents, a means whereby youngsters and their elders spend quality time together.

The whole program, using the latest training equipment from the United States and Europe, is divided into four levels:

- Level 1 is all about ball-handling, covering the fundamentals of dribbling, passing, receiving and pivoting.
- Level is concentrated on shooting, including lay-up, one-handed set shot, jump shot, off-the-backboard and free throw.
- Level 3 tackles defensive fundamentals and rebounding, plus one-on-one, two-on-two, three-on-three and five-on-five drills.
- Level 4 tackles the fundamentals of defense and offense, setting of screens and moving without the ball.

There is also a Refresher class for all ages which reviews levels 1 to 4. Overall, a student learns the philosophy of the game, the rules and regulations. At the same time, he is taught to be a winner since the drills in the earlier levels have made him well-prepared and well-equipped.

BEST Center is only one of several sports activities supported by Milo as a corporate commitment during the summer months. Also receiving a helping hand are Checkmate, a chess development program for the youth; the popular Milo Marathon, taekwondo, golf, gymnastics, swimming, football, karatedo, volleyball, tennis, bowling, squash, badminton, table tennis and fencing.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 and EasyCall 141-267284.

Davao hosts kitefest

BEAR Brand Kitefest 2001, the biggest and most prestigious kite-flying competition in the country, was held in Davao last Sunday at the Agro Industrial with prizes staked at Junior Kite for Children, Flat Kite, Geometric Kite and Figure Kite Category.

The next legs will be held in Manila and other key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

Apart from Davao, the Bear Brand Kitefest 2001 will also be held in Pangasinan on April 1, Tagbilaran, Bohol on April 8, Baguio on April 22, Puerto Princesa on April 29 and Metro Manila on May 13.

Derby finals tonight

THE BETTING favorites or llamados prevailed in the three-cock elimination fights yesterday and led the star-studded field in the finals tonight of the pulse-pounding NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sporting 3-0 slates are Mulawin Argem Coliseum II of engineer Pacifico Berin and Rudy Albano, Momentum of Boy Velez and Louie Cua, BL BG Showdown-JPC of Danny Ty and P. Chua and Eric Butsoy of Ramon Mansenares. They will enter the four-cock finals today shooting for crucial wins that will boost their bid in the prestige-laden 2001 Cocker of the year race being held under the aegis of the National Cockers Association.

Also in the running with two points are 17 entries headed by Thunderbird-Firefly II and IV of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Thunderbird-Firefly 8 and 13 of the Firefly Group, Winning Time-DVH of lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, Bumble Bee Balbina of Danding Cojuangco and Richard Bates, Meycauayan of Mayor Eddie Alarilla and Sarangani Wild of Philip Chiongbian. While further back with 1-1/2 points are Mulawin Jima-Clear cut of Pico Berin and BL Albany of Boy Lechon.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Indiana Pacers vs Toronto Raptors at 9 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on ESPN

2001 NCAA Tournament, East Regional Second Round at 1 p.m. (r - 7 p.m.), West Regional Second Round at 3 p.m. (r – tomorrow at 4 p.m.) on Star Sports

TIVO NIT, Second Round at 4 p.m. and tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Bay Hill Invitational, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Standard Register Ping, Second Round at 1 p.m. (delayed) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Motoworld at 8 a.m. on ESPN

Max Power at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

Race Day Malaysian Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Cop guns down 15-year-old snatcher

Another suspect says policeman told them to steal phones

By Philip C. Tubeza

QUEZON City policeman PO2 Ruel Yepes was on his way to work when he tried to help a nurse whose cellular phone was snatched, but he ended up killing the 15-year-old snatcher and injuring the boy's two accomplices.

One of the surviving suspects accused two of Yepes' fellow policemen at the Galas police station as the ones who ordered them to steal mobile phones.

Francis Mijares, 15, of Araneta Avenue, Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City, died from a single bullet in the head, investigators said.

COP GUNS DOWN/ A24

Pasig rookie officer kills fellow officer

By Agnes E. Donato

WHAT started as a tight friendship came to a tragic end when a rookie policeman shot to death his former classmate and fellow policeman right inside a police precinct in Pasig City on Monday evening.

Killed was PO1 Jhonbert Contaoi, of Barangay San Isidro, Antipolo City, said PO3 Ernesto Paraso.

Contaoi died from 11 gunshot wounds in different parts of the body while being brought to the Pasig City General Hospital.

PASIG ROOKIE/ A24

Stupid, Ping berates his accusers

"STUPID."

That was how Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson yesterday called the people who tagged him as the mastermind in the alleged kidnapping of Chinese businessman Lin Jun Zhang.

STUPID/ A24

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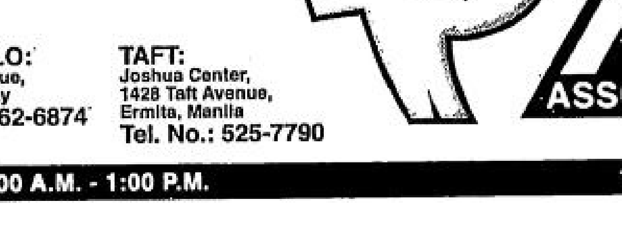

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Jaworski son accused of trying to buy shabu

By Jerome Aning

THE MAKATI City police has invited a son and chief political affairs officer of Sen. Robert Jaworski, to shed light on allegations that he tried to buy shabu from a suspected drug pusher who was arrested late Monday afternoon.

Suspect Michael Angelo Lytal Calimbahin, 29, tried to sell Ryan Joseph B. Jaworski and a female companion a sachet of shabu between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Monday, according to Senior Insp. Cesar Garcia, chief of the Makati police drug enforcement unit.

Unknown to Calimbahin, DEU agents led by Insp. Marcia Fa-ed were already tailing him. The policemen pounced on him as he handed the sachet to the driver of a Ford F150 (RHH-111) parked at the corner of Edsa and Iran Street in Barangay Pinagkaisahan.

When accosted, the driver of the car reportedly introduced himself as Senator Jaworski's son. Garcia's men said the driver left a calling card and, before they could say or do anything, sped away.

Recovered from Calimbahin were 1.5 grams of shabu in a heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet and five P500 bills. At the police station, Calimbahin denied having sold the drugs to Jaworski, saying he bought it for himself.

But he could not tell the police where he bought the shabu.

Garcia told reporters that the young Jaworski should not have been allowed to leave and should have been taken to the police station to explain why he met Calimbahin in the botched drug deal.

Investigators said Jaworski's son could also be used as a witness to further pin Calimbahin, a resident of Iran Street, Pinagkaisahan, in the drug pushing case filed against him.

Undercover agents earlier spotted Calimbahin leaving the house of an alleged drug pusher in Pinagkaisahan. They followed the suspect, who was on board a car (URE-250), up to Edsa.

Senator Jaworski in an ABS-CBN interview last night denied the police story. "If my son was escaping, why would he leave a calling card," he said, speaking in Filipino.

Claiming he was against illegal drugs and that he would not tolerate any wrongdoing, the senator said his son and the son's wife had gone to a friend's house in Pinagkaisahan because the wife had to use the bathroom.

The senator said that while his son and daughter-in-law were in their friend's house, Calimbahin came in another car.

Man kills lover for stripping in public

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 25-YEAR-OLD driver accidentally killed his live-in partner when she began to strip in front of her cousins while they were having a drink in Caloocan City Monday night.

Police filed homicide charges against Larry Castillon of Phase 4, Package 1, Block 3, Lot 3, Bagong Silang, Caloocan, for beating to death Elsie Medina, 32.

The suspect became furious when he learned from neighbors that his drunken partner was stripping in front of her cousins Reynaldo and Gregorio Pareno at about 9 p.m. Monday, said PO3 Elvis Imperial of Caloocan Police Station 1.

Castillon went to the house of Medina's cousins and saw his partner wearing only a bra while unzipping her pants in front of their other neighbors, police said.

Castillon then dragged Medina home where they quarreled. Castillon claimed he punched her several times to pacify her, PO3 Imperial said.

Medina fell unconscious and Castillon thought she only passed out because she was drunk.

But Castillon panicked 30 minutes later when Medina did not regain consciousness, prompting him to seek help.

Medina died before she could reach the Bayan Medical Clinic.

Castillon surrendered to police. He is detained at the Caloocan City Jail.

The Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office recommended a P40,000 bail for Castillon.

SLAIN SNATCHER Mijares and a stolen cell phone fall by a creek.

Widower nailed in the head

A NAIL killed widower Elynor C. Rivera, 64, after his neighbors in Quezon City beat him up on Monday.

Rivera, of 21 Pook Pag-Asa, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, was brought to the hospital with a nail embedded in his head, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police identified the suspects as driver Vitorino S. Calub, 34; laborer Ernesto L. Mendoza, 37; store-owner Leonardo Imaas, 46; and a certain Danilo Canduli. They allegedly used rocks, an iron triangle and a 2x2 piece of wood with a nail protruding from it, to beat up Rivera, Barrameda said.

They allegedly wanted Rivera dead for creating trouble in their neighborhood whenever he was drunk. Rivera was said to have fought with each of them in separate incidents in the past, Barrameda added.

On Monday night, the four men supposedly decided to get back at their old foe Rivera and waited for him to come out of his house.

At about 11:30 p.m., they got their chance to get even when Rivera appeared on the street, police said. They allegedly pounced on Rivera and beat him to a pulp with the iron triangle, rocks, and the piece of wood with the nail.

Police said most of their blows landed on Rivera's head. But the fatal blow appeared to be the one inflicted with the 2x2, which hit Rivera in the right side of his temple, according to Barrameda.

Rivera's daughter Annalyn heard his father's cries for help. But she was too late in coming to his rescue. The suspects were already gone and only her dying father was left in the street.

But Rivera was able to whisper to his daughter the names of his assailants, Barrameda added.

The daughter brought him to the Fairview General Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival at 11:40 p.m., Barrameda said.

But policemen managed to arrest the suspects, except for Canduli, while they were trying to escape, Barrameda added.

The suspects are detained at Camp Karingal in Quezon City.

Philip C. Tubeza

Now, athletes must beware

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(GOOD LUCK: From poet-novelist Erwin Castillo, whose new masterpiece is on its way to the press, this note: "Nick Joaquin's beloved Manila has a new police chief. Senior Supt. Nick Pacinos. Among Supt. Pacinos' most ardent well-wishers are his former companions at the Bagong Diwa Sports Club of Camp Ricardo Papa in Taguig, where he is remembered as an enthusiastic and pugnacious competitor in the practical shooting circuit. Among Bagong Diwa stalwarts were jazz guitarist Bill Melendrez; Felix Angue, now military attaché in London; marketing expert Grexy Villaseran; engineer Francis Llamas; SMC's Tino Galang and his brother Pol. It was his late teammate Richard Eusebio who gave Nick Pacinos his club nickname, "Al." Nick Pacinos is an experienced combat veteran with a reputation for in-your-face aggressiveness, for intelligence, courage and luck. A stern disciplinarian, he hides humor beneath a forbidding, gruff exterior. Congratulations for taking on one of the most difficult jobs in the country.")

* * *

CHOOSE someone from your ranks who can lead you. That order came straight from the Office of the President.

Naturally, the big athletes' group that marched to Malacañang on Monday can proudly claim triumph.

Based on a dialogue with Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, the protesting athletes bared they have been given a free hand to name a leader who would take over the reins at the Philippine Sports Commission.

Nothing could be sweeter to the ears of the group that has, by the look of things, succeeded in staging a coup, a People Power uprising, to unseat PSC chair Butch Tuason, a holdover from the Estrada administration.

* * *

The claims of weightlifting coach Jaime Sebastian, among those who sat down with the executive secretary, were as a strong signal and command for Tuason to step down. Right now!

Sebastian, the most bemedalled Filipino campaigner in the Southeast Asian Games, claimed Secretary De Villa has asked his group to submit the names of those who can help work out changes in the PSC setup.

There was, however, nothing clear on how the reforms would be carried out.

And, true enough, Butch Tuason has refused to budge. The man has no plans of moving out.

By the look of things, he won't go down without giving a fight.

Last heard of, the embattled PSC big boss, pilloried for anomalous transactions and lack of concern for the wellbeing of national athletes, has asked for a dialogue.

* * *

That, a dialogue, looks and sounds very cozy.

But Tuason could be dreaming if he sincerely thought the protesting athletes would agree to sit down with a man who did not have their confidence and trust.

That big march to Malacañang said it all. The athletes, feeling oppressed, did not want to have anything to do with the current PSC leadership. And enough of this talk about unity and all that crap.

Well, another factor mentioned was the forthcoming SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Embattled sports leaders wanted everybody to believe that preparations for the SEA Games expedition could be disrupted by a sudden change in the PSC leadership.

One look would, however, convince observers that the protesting group would not allow itself to be blackmailed with this hollow allegations about the SEA Games preparations.

The message from the athletes was strong and clear. They wanted an end to the rotten system, right away.

* * *

Malacañang has paused and listened.

But the danger now lies in the names the athletes' group would be submitting to the Palace.

There was grave concern when former Philippine Olympic Committee president Cristy Ramos was seen among the marchers on Monday. She was seen addressing the marchers together with athletics chief Go Teng Kok, said to be among the main movers behind the protest.

But what could be truly troublesome is this report that Cristy Ramos, who has been junked by no less than the International Olympic Committee, is eyeing the top PSC post.

Reason: Philippine sports has had a bitter taste of her brand of leadership.

In fairness to Ms Ramos, we will no longer go into details. Her past record should speak for itself.

* * *

For the record, her father, former President Fidel Ramos, did not lift a finger when her gruff style of leadership put Cristy Ramos into grave trouble.

After all, Mr. Ramos, as he had vowed, also did not intervene when Cristy Ramos vied for the POC presidency.

As can be expected, Fidel Ramos will not meddle in this drive by Cristy Ramos, desposed POC head, to grab the PSC chairmanship.

But there's one big problem. Some Malacañang geniuses may think they would be helping or repaying Mr. Ramos by yielding the PSC top post to his daughter.

If this takes place, it could be as bitter, unpalatable as Mike Arroyo, the President's husband, prevailing to retain his cousin, Butch Tuason, as PSC chief.

Tuason retained or Cristy Ramos taking over would mean only one thing: The athletes' protest, first believed to have been a successful coup, was an exercise in futility.

Beware!

Cop guns ...

(From page A23)

One of his companions, a 17-year-old boy, was shot in the back. The other suspect, Joel Depeo, 22, was shot in the arm, said investigator SPO1 Efren Sobrepena.

The 17-year-old reportedly said two rookie Quezon City policemen ordered them to steal a cellular phone because a girlfriend of one of the officers wanted to have a mobile phone for her birthday.

Unconfirmed reports said the three young men had two other companions who acted as lookouts.

Depeo was brought to the National Orthopedic Hospital while the 17-year-old was undergoing surgery yesterday at the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC), Sobrepena said.

Yepes went after the suspects after they snatched the Nokia 3310 cell phone of Mervyn Pala, 26, a Saint Luke's Hospital nurse, Sobrepena said.

He said the policeman, who was then in civilian clothes, was on his way to work around 7:30 a.m. when he noticed a commotion near the corner of E. Rodriguez and Araneta avenues.

Sobrepena said the young men boarded the FX taxi that Pala was riding and grabbed her cellular phone.

Yepes heard the nurse's cries for help and decided to chase the three suspects who had run to the creek under a bridge on E. Rodriguez.

It was there that Yepes shot the suspects one by one. Mijares' mother, Maria Theresa, told the Inquirer that her son had already fallen in the creek but the policeman still shot him.

Mijares died on the spot from a single gunshot on the forehead, investigators said.

Witnesses brought the two surviving suspects to the National Orthopedic and the EAMC while Yepes surrendered to the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit, Sobrepena said.

Yepes is detained in Camp Karingal. Fellow policemen are preparing to file charges of homicide and frustrated homicide against him, Sobrepena added.

Trader to lead NBI to Feliciano killers

By Michael Lim Ubac

A BUSINESSMAN yesterday appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation and claimed he could identify one of four suspects in the kidnap-slay of 21-year-old Claudine Mabel Feliciano on March 10.

The businessman, whose identity is being withheld, has become the agency's main witness in the crime, an NBI insider said.

According to the source, the witness told members of the NBI's Special Action Unit that he saw one of the suspects alight from the victim's car, a black Mazda sedan (URN-855) in Barangay Bangkal, Makati.

"That was the same spot where the car was found abandoned last week," said the NBI insider.

Though the witness could not identify the other suspects since they were inside the car at the time, he is sure the one he saw was indeed one of Feliciano's killers, the source said.

"(The witness) claims the suspect regularly goes to the Alabang Town Center, *mukhang tambay siya doon*," said the insider.

The insider also admitted they have already identified one of the suspects in the Feliciano case. But it was unclear whether the NBI's suspect was the same one the businessman has tagged.

The NBI's suspect belongs to a middle class family and is not a resident of Makati or Parañaque.

"But this does not mean that the other suspects are not rich ones," the insider said.

On Monday night, Parañaque police arrested arrested Agustin Adriatico, 21, whom they claimed resembled one of the the rapist-killers of Feliciano.

Police arrested Adriatico, of Dasmariñas, Cavite, on Maceda Street in Sampaloc, Manila.

But Supt. Ronald Estiles, Parañaque police chief, said witness Balis failed to identify Adriatico as one of her abductors.

Aside from the businessman, SAU agents under lawyer Edmund Arugay are relying on Janet Balis, 25, the victim of an aborted abduction in Parañaque City.

The NBI believed Balis' abductors were the same ones who raped and killed Feliciano.

With a report from Jerome Aning

Stupid . . .

(From page A23)

"Whoever did the script seems very stupid," Lacson, speaking in Filipino, told radio station dzBB. "I was already the chief of the Philippine National Police so how could I have participated directly in the abduction and the negotiation, as they were claiming?"

Lacson said he never heard the name of the alleged victim until Monday night when the supposed "exclusive" kidnapping story was reported by ABS-CBN reporter Rodney Jaleco.

Lacson also denied knowing Jenny Lin Ong, the alleged wife of Zhang, who was reportedly convinced by Mary Ong to make the accusations in public.

Ong even acted as the interpreter during Lin's interview with ABS-CBN.

Lacson said Lin's story was part of the demolition campaign that has been hatched against him and the other candidates from the opposition.

Lacson said it was his job as the PNP chief and concurrent head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) to go after kidnappers and not to be involved in kidnappings.

The former PNP chief laughed off Lin's allegation that he identified himself when the negotiation for the ransom for her husband's release was being conducted.

"What kidnapper would identify himself," Lacson said. "This is the first time I encountered a kidnapping story that identifies those involved. Next time, they should improve their script to make it more believable."

He asked his accusers to go to court and file a case if they have something against him, instead of just announcing it in the media.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 21, 2001
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading:	**Dt 4:1, 5-9**
Gospel:	**Mt 5:17-19**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not think that I have come to remove the Law and the Prophets. I have not come to remove but to fulfill them. I tell you this: as long as heaven and earth last, not the smallest letter or stroke of the Law will change until all is fulfilled.

So then, whoever breaks the least important of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be the least in the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys them and teaches others to do the same will be great in the kingdom of heaven."

Commentary:

Jesus of Nazareth from the age of thirteen, when he became a bar mitzvah, assumed full responsibility as a Jew for the observance of the Torah and the Prophets. As a true son of Israel, he observed them according to the original intent of the God of the Covenant, who wanted his people to be free for the Godhead and for one another. This was the reason why he was at odds with the burdensome interpretations and observances of most religious leaders of his times. Thus, Torah observance did not become for them an evidence of their wisdom and intelligence, as God's very own people. On what does your Gospel observance rest?

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Police bust kidnap gang led by politician

POLICE said they have rounded up suspected kidnappers led by a mayoral candidate with suspected links to communist guerrillas over the weekend.

Police have arrested former mayor Javier Zacate, who is running for mayor in a Samar town, and six other suspects during a series of raids in Metro Manila.

Zacate allegedly plotted the abduction of a Filipino Chinese businessman and planned to give the ransom to the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing the New People's Army, according to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Philippine National Police.

The group was said to be behind the abduction of an Antipolo hardware store owner two weeks ago, police said.

Victim Pen Chang Tan was freed last week after his family paid a P6-million ransom.

Police are also hunting down Zacate's alleged guerrilla contact, Carlos Tizon, said to be a senior communist party official.

Police said Zacate and Tizon used surviving members of a criminal gang whose cohorts had been detained for other crimes.

The rebels could also be using criminals to kidnap people in a bid to raise funds for the communist guerrilla group, CID head Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto said.

AFP

Pasig rookie officer kills fellow officer

(From page A23)

Murder charges would be filed against the officer who shot him, PO1 Winter Jose, 28, of Barangay de la Paz in Pasig.

A Pasig policeman said he was surprised when he learned about the shooting because he knew Contaoi and Jose were "buddies."

He said Contaoi and Jose were classmates when they took up the basic police course. They were also both assigned to the police sub-station on Ortigas Avenue.

Initial investigation showed that at around 8:30 p.m. on Monday. Contaoi arrived at the sub-station complaining about his personal problems to the station desk officer, PO3 Arnel Foronda.

When Contaoi saw Jose standing nearby, he reportedly said sarcastically that Jose was one of the people who had been causing him trouble, the investigator said.

Contaoi and Jose were caught in a bitter argument, during which they tried to draw their guns.

To pacify both parties, Foronda asked Contaoi to have snack with him. But when Foronda and Contaoi were going back to the station, Contaoi and Jose met again.

Fourteen shots were fired, 11 of which hit Contaoi, the investigator said.

Jose immediately surrendered to his precinct commander, Chief Insp. Procopio Lipana, and yielded his .9mm caliber pistol service firearm.

Jose is detained at the Pasig police headquarters.

Supt. John Sosito, the Pasig police chief, instructed the Criminal Investigation Division to take the statements of other policemen who were present during the shootout.

So the People May Know

INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

A Call to Fairness

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The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) respectfully submits that the Supreme Court order preventing the filing of criminal charges against deposed President Joseph Estrada should be maintained pending the resolution of his motion for reconsideration.

The TRO issued by the High Court must be understood to be operative for as long as the case questioning the legitimacy of the present government has not been resolved with finality.

IBP believes that the ousted President is not above the law and must be made to answer for his misdeeds. But he should be allowed to exhaust all legal remedies with full observance of due process, in a "circus-free atmosphere" as the Supreme Court itself admonished.

There is another reason why the filing of criminal charges at this time should be deferred. The legal basis for administering the oath of office to President Arroyo on **January 20, 2001** has not been fully clarified. Then President Estrada had showed signs manifesting an intention of "resigning", yet he was still in Malacañang and had not actually resigned when Mrs. Arroyo took her oath. Intent is meaningless unless it ripens into an overt act.

A full and satisfactory resolution of this legal issue will enrich Philippine jurisprudence and will remove any lingering doubt about the legitimacy of the present government.

Let justice be done, but let not a miscarriage of justice occur by allowing a climate of haste, or worse, pre-judgment and intimidation.

Let the rule of law ever reign supreme!

Pasig, Metro Manila: **6 March 2001.**

INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES
BY:

ARTHUR D. LIM
National President

New and veteran hosts on 'Talk TV'

(From page A28)

"Estudyante Blues," "Sigarilo," "Ang Umaayaw Ay Di Nagwawagi," "Mindanao" and "Larawan."

"Imelda Papin's Phenomenal Hits, Vol. 2" has the following cuts: "Mahal, Saan Ka Nanggaling Kagabi," "Bakit Ikaw Pa," "Kapiling Mo, Kasuyo Ko," "Sana'y Ako Pa Rin," "Umaga Na, Wala Ka Pa," "Hapdi" and "Offering of Love."

Tribute

ON SATURDAY, March 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "A Tribute to National Geographic," consisting of three special programs, will be telecast to salute the great men and women who have left their mark on the famous magazine.

"The Photographers" (7 p.m.) focuses on the men and women who shot outstanding visual essays for the famous publication.

The Ford Motor Company's "Heroes for the Planet" gala (8 p.m.) is a one-hour entertainment event hosted by **Pierce Brosnan**. Among the VIPs present are ex-US president **Bill Clinton** and the magazine's Explorers in Residence.

"Wild Passions" (9 p.m.) spotlights the filmmakers and cinematographers who venture into the wild to bring back precious film footage that viewers would otherwise not see.

Advance screening

MOSSIMO sponsors the advance screening of "Sweet November," March 30, 8 p.m. at Cinema 6 Glorietta 4.

Pat O'Connor directs the film, which marks the screen reunion of Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron, who earlier teamed up in "Devil's Advocate."

In "Sweet November," Reeves plays a busy advertising executive who meets a free-spirited lady (Theron) who persuades him to spend a month with her so she can help him work through his unresolved emotional issues. What neither of them counts on is falling in love with each other.

A minimum purchase of P2,000 worth of Mossimo products entitles the customer to two tickets to the screening.

Also starring in the movie is Greg German.

For inquiries, call 723-2768 or 723-2548.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	BAIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	PANABLA

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
3	DTS	BAIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PANABLA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PANABLA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	CHOCOLAT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	QUILLS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
11	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	DTS	BAIT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PANABLA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
7	DTS	BAIT
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
10	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
12	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BAIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PANABLA
7	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
10	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PANABLA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SNATCH
3	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSSION
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	THE GIFT
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG ...
4	BAIT

GLORIETTA 4 (All Digital Sound)

1	MS. CONGENIALITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BAIT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE GIFT THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (Art Film)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	QUILLS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	WEDDING PLANNER	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	CHOCOLAT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CHOCOLAT	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE GIFT	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARCH 23, 24, 30, 31 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE GIFT THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	WEDDING PLANNER	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	BAIT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CHOCOLAT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
2 (SDDS)	BAIT
3 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4 (GOLD DTS)	HANNIBAL
5 (GOLD DOLBY)	THE GIFT
6 (GOLD SDDS)	CHOCOLAT
7 (GOLD DOLBY)	QUILLS
8	DRACULA 2000
9	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	PANABLA
3 (DTS)	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 (DTS)	OOOPS TEKA LANG
3	PANABLA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	PANABLA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	PANABLA
3	THE GIFT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
5	

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PANABLA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	LIVE SHOW
5	
6	THE GIFT
7	TOO MUCH FLESH
8	RESERVE

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR P30 00
2	WONDER BOY
3	PROOF OF LIFE
4	IKA-7 GLORYA
5	–
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	PROOF OF LIFE
2	HAYOP SA GANDA
3	TURN ON
4	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR P30 00

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HANNIBAL
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	PANABLA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS. TEKA LANG

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
A	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	TOO MUCH FLESH
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	PANABLA
3	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	CHOCOLAT
5	QUILLS
6	OOOPS TEKA LANG
7 (DTS)	BAIT
8 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
9 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PANABLA
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	LIVE SHOW
5	PANABLA
6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
7 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000
8	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9	HOSTAGE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BAIT
2	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
6	PANABLA
7 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
8	LIVE SHOW

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PANABLA
2	LIVE SHOW
3 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
5 (SDDS)	THE GIFT
6 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
7 (DOLBY)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LIVE SHOW
Lords	LIVE SHOW
Jennet	PANABLA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PANABLA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	THE GIFT
3	PANABLA
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	LIVE SHOW

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	PANABLA
4	
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	PANABLA
3	OOOPS TEKA LANG

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
3 (DTS)	PANABLA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 (DTS)	PANABLA
3 (DOLBY)	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	OOOPS. TEKA LANG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	PANABLA
3	WEDDING PLANNER
4 (DTS)	OOOPS. TEKA LANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DTS)	PURPLE STORM
4	TOROTOT
5	PANABLA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	PANABLA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	PANABLA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
3	LIVE SHOW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
3	PURPLE STORM

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
2	TOO MUCH FLESH
3	PANABLA
4	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TOROTOT
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS TEKA LANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DRACULA 2000
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	MS. CONGENIALITY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	PANABLA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	PANABLA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	RESERVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	WEDDING PLANNER
4 (DTS EX)	MS. CONGENIALITY

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❶	WEDDING PLANNER
❷	MS. CONGENIALITY
❸	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
❹	TOO MUCH FLESH
❺	HANNIBAL
❻	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
❼	DRACULA 2000

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❶	WEDDING PLANNER
❷	LIVE SHOW
❸	TOO MUCH FLESH
❹	MS. CONGENIALITY
❺	OOOPS! TEKA LANG
❻	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

BACOLOD (034)441-0463

❶	HANNIBAL
❷	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
❸	DRACULA 2000
❹	THE FAMILY MAN
❺	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
❻	WAY OF THE GUN

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BILLY ELLIOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	PURPLE STORM
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOO MUCH FLESH
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
MIRAMAR	NAGHUHUMIYAW / WHIPPED
ODEON	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ODEON-2	PANABLA
ROBEN	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
QUEZON-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
REMAR	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
REMAR-2	OOOPS TEKA LANG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
OCEAN CINEMA-A	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	QUILLS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-3	PANABLA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-6	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-7	PURPLE STORM
CINEMA-8	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-12	BAIT
CINEMA-14	QUILLS
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-3	NAKED LIES
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	QUILLS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-3	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAIT

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Gary V sings most requested tunes anew

By MARINEL R. CRUZ

A SHOW at Maryknoll College, then an all-girl school, brought together Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera 18 years ago. The two became friends even if they also become arch rivals in the local pop music scene.

During that first meeting, Gary was supposed to sing the Barry Manilow hit "Somewhere Down the Road" ahead of Martin. But Martin, who got to perform earlier than Gary, sang the same song Gary had practiced so hard for.

"Martin even had a minus-one of the song especially arranged for him," he said, "while what I had was something I just bought in a record bar."

He was very disappointed at what happened that Gary never planned on singing the song in concerts or shows if Martin happened to be around.

But now, one might just catch Gary sing the song for the first time in a 10-night concert dubbed as "Gary V: By Request 2" at the newly opened Onstage at Greenbelt Mall in Ayala Center. And he will once again enthrall audiences as he sings at the all-request two-hour a night series every weekend starting on March 16 up to April 21.

An upshot of the highly successful 1997 "By Request" concert at the Music Museum where the 10-night schedule was extended to 16 because of the overwhelming demand of Gary V fanatics for more, this second edition is in response to the clamor of Gary's fans for a repeat run.

Manila Genesis Entertainment, in cooperation with GV Productions Inc., would produce the show, which, Gary promises to be even more exciting than the first. He said he will be performing not only his original hits but also "some Barry Manilow (songs), current boy bands, and even Martin Nievera's songs."

"I might also be doing several Michael Jackson songs," he hinted, as if it were a secret that he is the local clone of the reclusive singer.

VALENCIANO. Holds a 10-night concert series.

When news of the new show and its concept leaked, Gary has been inundated with requests from fans through e-mail, snail mail and even through text messaging for songs they want to hear at the concert.

In a recent press conference at the Ciao Bar Ristoranté in Dusit Hotel Nikko, Gary said that the Steve Curtis Chapman original "I Will Be Here" from his "Revive" album tops the request list.

Asked what he thinks is probably the weirdest request he has received so far, Gary said. "It has got to be asking me to sing the 'Macarena' and 'My Pledge of Love.'"

He will be singing the top 15 most requested songs of each night, all of which will have new arrangements Gary's long-time music director Mon Faustino and Gary himself had done.

"I am really nervous. I don't have a guest, my guest is my band," he said. "Mon and I are really preparing for it."

Always a versatile performer, Mr. Pure Energy himself is currently checking out tunes from 98 Degrees, N 'Sync, Westlife, Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears and the likes.

Since he would have no guests for the show, Gary says "I just might ask someone from the audience to sing 'Cruisin' with me if the request pops up."

His departure from his usual repertoire might disappoint his followers, who flock to his shows expecting to see and hear the Gary that is familiar to them.

But Gary simply shrugged his shoulder and said he would just be giving what the audience wants. "I don't think it will come out like that."

Gary is also the first solo act at the 824-seater multi-purpose hall Onstage. The place, as he described it, is a fitting venue for the event since it has seats much like those in theaters, which would be comfortable for audiences to sit on.

"I have seen the place," he said. "I just know it's good. I'm very excited to go back there already."

Gary has made sure that he is physically fit—what with his busy schedule.

"Being a diabetic, I cannot afford to take the risk of not taking care of myself," he explained. "I don't eat a lot and make sure I take all my vitamins and supplements."

If time permits, Gary also plays basketball with friends every Monday evening.

"Nothing special really, just a night of letting it all out," he said.

But Sunday is an important day for Gary: It's his time with his wife Angeli and their three children—Paolo, 16, Gabriel, 12, and Kiana, 8.

"It's during moments when we are together when we really crack up," Gary beamed as he described his second son Gabriel, whom he said, is very much a fast-talker like him.

Gabriel, according to dad, is naturally funny and animated but is a serious piano player. He's also into dance and basketball. Kiana, which is short for Kristiana, is the singer of the brood. At age eight, she is swiftly learning how to play the piano and enjoys singing Disney tunes.

"She has good ears and can makes up lyrics to a tune of just about anything," Gary said.

Meanwhile, Paolo shows extreme interest in directing and loves to perform onstage with his dad. Gary also hinted that the young man might have a small portion in the concert.

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta with hubby Kiko Pangilinan and daughter Frankie.

Sharon not leaving show biz, even if Kiko wins

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IN CASE Sharonians get worried that the megastar will leave show business when her husband, lawyer **Kiko Pangilinan**, wins in the senate race, **Sharon Cuneta** assures her followers she is not even planning to slow down.

"I will continue acting and singing because that's where my heart is, just as Kiko's heart is in serving the people," Sharon says. "Whatever projects or causes he has, I will support him. He can always count on me. What's more important are my roles as his wife and mother of his children."

Sharon's hubby is believed to be a shoo-in in the senate race largely because of her popularity all over the country. In fact, in most places where Kiko campaigns, people inevitably looks for Sharon. But Kiko does not really mind.

"I am aware that Sharon is more popular than me," Kiko says. "She has been in show biz for more than 20 years and I know that a number of people will vote for me because they idolize her. But they should realize that being the husband of a popular figure is not a qualification for being a senator."

Sharon has been actively joining campaign sorties to assure the victory not only of her husband, but the entire slate of the People's Power Coalition. She has become a much-awaited figure in the rallies of the PPC candidates, even in the provinces, where she draws huge crowds with her song numbers and undeniable charisma.

The megastar was earlier rumored to enter politics, too, and run for mayor of Pasay, where her late dad, **Pablo Cuneta**, ruled for over three decades. But Sharon has apparently no political ambition despite having been brought up in a political setup. The lure of the cameras and kleig lights proved to be stronger.

Instead, Sharon has decided to support the candidacy of her husband.

Desperately seeking Priscilla

WHERE is **Priscilla Almeda**?

After filming **Lav Diaz**'s "Batang Fil-Am" in New York, the sexy actress has yet to return to the country.

Priscilla left early this year to shoot the movie in the Big Apple. However, now that the filming has ended, Priscilla is still reportedly holed out in New York.

But not one among her close friends here can give a definite answer on Priscilla's whereabouts. After the filming, she is said to have flown to Canada, where she met her real mother, wife of dwKC deejay **Rudolf Rivera**. No one also knows what actually transpired in that meeting.

Priscilla's absence has worried a number of people, including her boyfriend, **John-John Osmeña**, son of Sen. **John Osmeña**.

The sexy actress does not return phone calls and cannot be tracked down even by her talent manager, **Nestor Cuartero**.

Is it true that Priscilla was disheartened and confused after meeting her real mother that's why she chose to go back to New York than returning to Manila?

It is said only one person can convince Priscilla to come home and fulfill her numerous commitments here. But first, that person has to find Priscilla.

ALMEDA. Where can she be?

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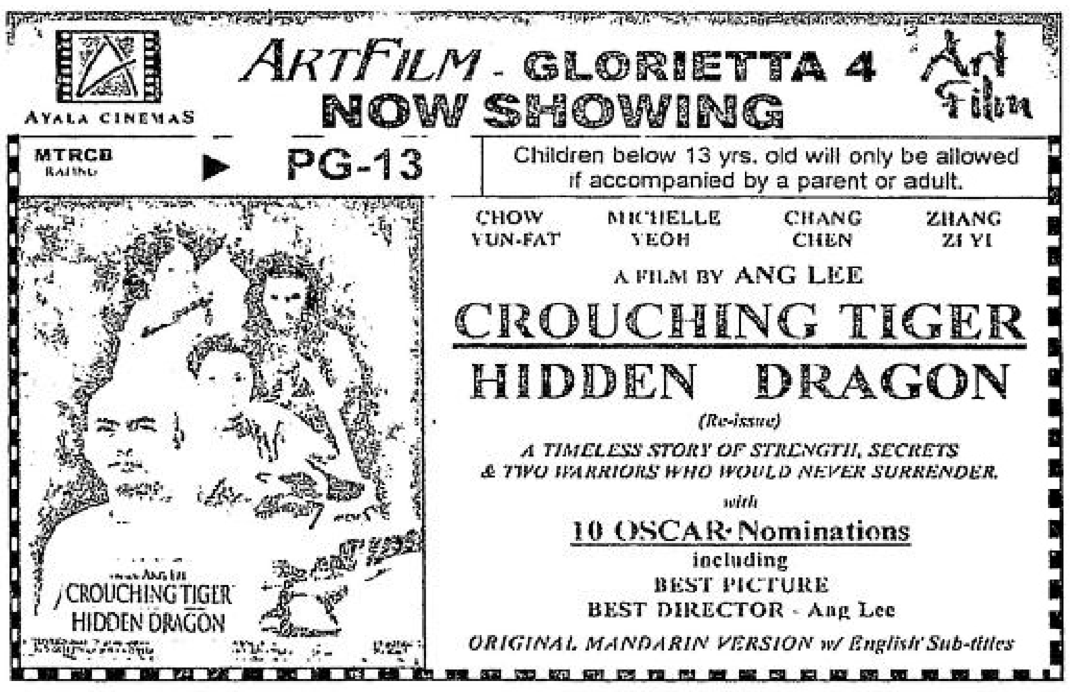

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4 THE GIFT - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	5 CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	6 BAIT - R 18 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

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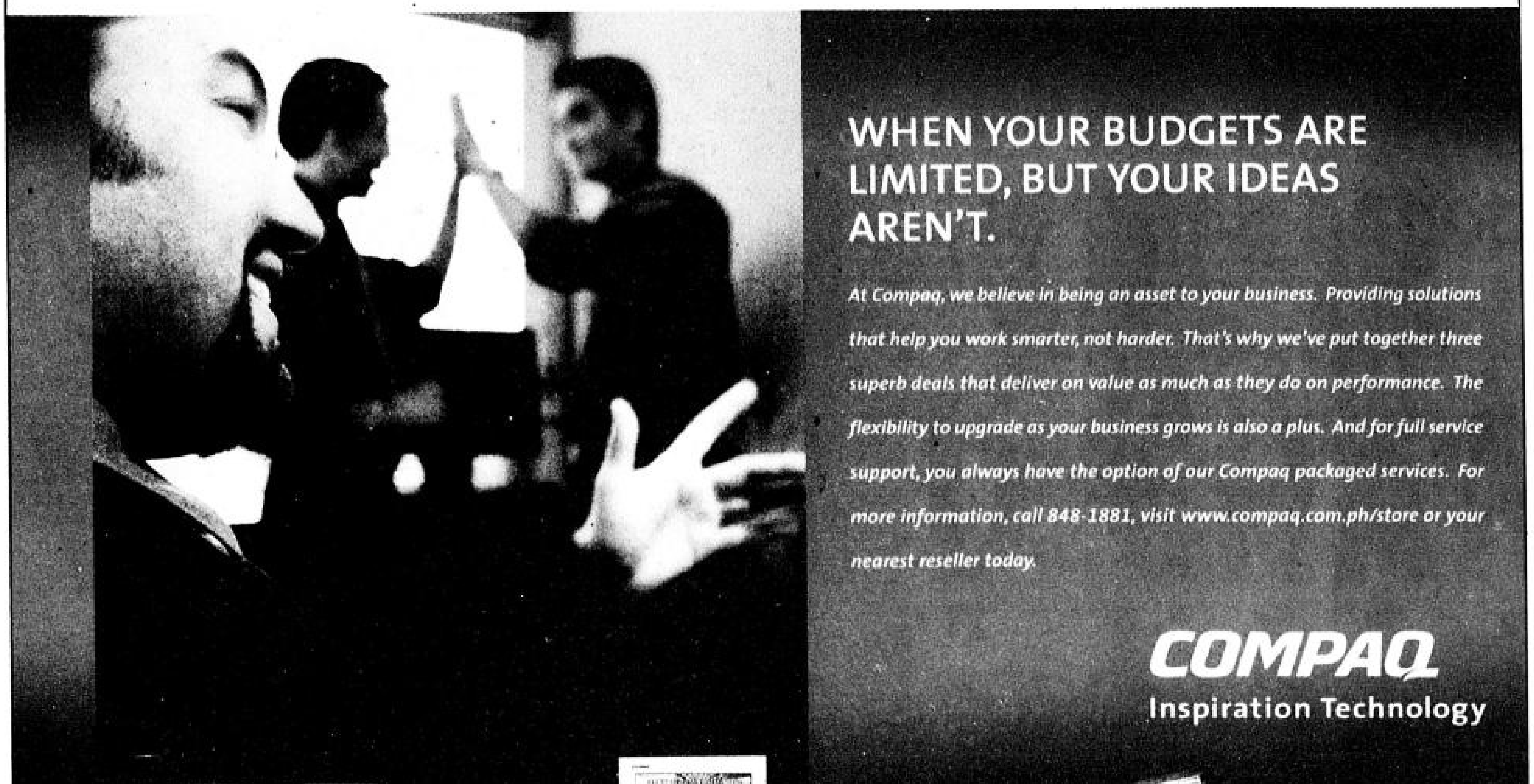

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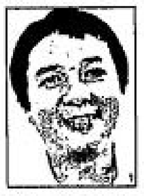
ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

New and veteran hosts on 'Talk TV'

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

THE FIRST telecast of Channel 2's "Talk TV" Monday last week (the show airs weekdays at 10:30 a.m.) turned out not to be a good occasion to size up the program because it concentrated on plugging the new shows of ABS-CBN's three stellar "K's"—**Korina Sanchez, Karen Davila** and **Kris Aquino**.

So, we decided to focus instead on how the program's new hosts interacted with each other.

Julius Babao and **Christine Bersola** are the reliable veterans, having come from years of cohosting on "Alas Singko Y Med-ya."

It must be a great relief for the two veteran hosts to no longer have to get up at three or four o'clock in the morning, as they had to do for all those years on their waker-upper show.

So, we can expect them to be even more alert and spirited on their new 10:30 a.m. telecast. And to teach their younger cohosts some tricks of the hosting trade that they've picked up through the years.

We daresay that **Ryan Agoncillo** and **Janet McBride** can use the continuing tutorial. Ryan has done a lot of TV hosting on Channel 7's "Unang Hirit," but he still hasn't gotten his act together.

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For one thing, he looks scruffy, despite his being good-looking, because he doesn't know how or care to present himself at his best when he's in front of the TV cameras.

More importantly, he projects this aw-shucks approach to his work that viewers could interpret as indolence. If that looked "cute" on "Unang Hi-rit," it won't pass muster in the more competitive and highly charged atmosphere of ABS-CBN.

As for McBride, she's clearly the "baby" in the group, with only limited performing experience and absolutely no background in public affairs or magazine-show hosting.

In cognizance of her rawness, the show's initial telecast used her only minimally, so we'll have to wait until we see her do an interview for us to figure out if she's got what it takes to move up from performing in entertainment programs to "Talk TV."

'Elizabeth' on Star Movies

STAR Movies' countdown to the Oscars heats up with the Telecast on Thursday, March 22 at 9 p.m. of "Elizabeth," with **Cate Blanchett** playing the title role.

Blanchett did so well in the movie that she won the Golden Globe award for best actress, and was also nominated for an Oscar. The movie also stars **Geoffrey Rush** as Sir **Francis Walsingham** and **Joseph Fiennes** as the Queen's favorite.

VCD-Karaoke albums

CONCORDE Records has released VCD-Karaoke album compilations of the most popular songs of **Freddie Aguilar** and **Imelda Papin**.

"Greatest Hits of Freddie Aguilar, Vol. I" includes "Ipaglalaban Ko," "Magdalena,"

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Gov't sees heftier growth in next 5 years

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

WHILE resigned to a slower growth this year, the Macapagal administration is confident the economy will rebound and achieve faster growth starting 2002.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee, in its new medium-term macroeconomic targets, projected a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of between 4.7 and 5.2 percent next year.

For this year, the government is projecting a GDP growth of 3.8 to 4.3 percent. Some sectors, however, expect lower growth rates. The Asian Development Bank, for instance, has set its growth target for the Philippines this year at only 3.3 percent.

The plan presents a rosy economic outlook for the next five years with GDP growth seen to increase from the projected 4.7 to 5.2 percent next year to between 5.3 and 5.6 percent in 2003. The DBCC adopted a conservative GDP growth estimate of between 5 to 5.6 percent in 2004, an election year.

For 2005, the DBCC projected that GDP growth would be stronger at 5.4 to 5.9 percent, to further increase to 5.7 to 6.2 percent in 2006.

The DBCC said the growth in the economy in the next five years would be fueled by a yearly average export growth of 9 percent and a low-interest rate regime.

The projections factored in a possible deterioration in the peso-dollar exchange rate over the medium-term and the expected stabilization of oil prices below $25 per barrel.

The DBCC will present its targets to the IMF through a mission from Washington that is coming to Manila on March 28 to April 10 to firm up a post-monitoring program for the Philippines.

GDP refers to the total goods and services produced by the economy less the net factor income from abroad.

Meantime, the country's GNP growth is seen to pick up from 4 to 4.5 percent his year to 4.9 to 5.4 percent in 2002; 5.5 to 6 percent in 2003; 5.2 to 5.7 percent in 2004; 5.5 to 6 percent in 2005, and 5.8 to 6.3 percent in 2006.

The DBCC projections also assumed that interest rates, based on the benchmark 91-day Treasury bill rate, would stay lower than 11 percent while inflation will remain at below 6 percent over the medium-term.

Inflation is seen to taper off to 5 to 6 percent next year and stay below 6 percent until 2006.

The consensus among analysts and economists is that growth this year will be slower compared to last year but the outlook will be rosier starting next year.

Worldsec International Securities (Phils.) cited the following long-term positive factors:

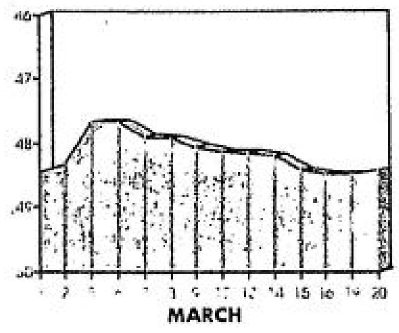
- President Macapagal-Arroyo is likely to continue espousing democracy and market-oriented policies;
- Structural, political, economic and social reforms implemented

GOV'T/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY SAMMY RENOSO

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 48.44 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 20, 2001

¥ 123.36 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 123.36 as of 5 p.m., March 19, 2001

GOLD:$262.40/262.90 per ounce Hong Kong, March 20, 2001

STOCK MARKET

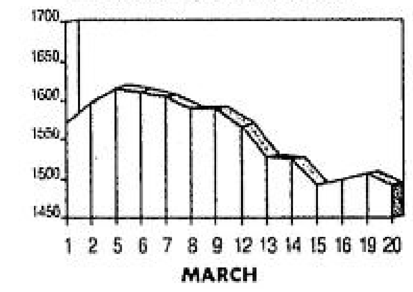
Shares down

SHARES yesterday closed lower on political concerns after ousted leader Joseph Estrada petitioned the Supreme Court to reverse its recent ruling upholding the presidency of his successor, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index broke its 1,500-point support level to close down 15.98 points, or 1.1 percent, at 1,491.54, after gaining 0.6 percent Monday.

The renewed political concern kept the market from riding on Wall Street's overnight gains, said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo. *AP*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Big US firms take fresh look at RP

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

A TEAM of top American businessmen is scheduled to arrive in the Philippines this week to take a fresh look at investment opportunities in the country under the newly installed Macapagal administration.

Philippine American Chamber of Commerce chair John J.P. Howley said this would be the first private sector-led trade mission under President Macapagal-Arroyo's term which underscores the pro-active approach of American businessmen in hunting for opportunities in the Philippines under the new administration.

Howley is a partner of the New York-based law firm Kaye Scholer, which is organizing the 22-member US trade mission made up of senior executives of blue-chip American firms such as Colgate-Palmolive, Continental Airlines-Micronesia, software giant Computer Associates, the Prudential group, Texaco, Photocircuits Corp., SCS-Wetherill Environment, and Spectrum Technology. The US trade mission will hold dialogues with the President and her Cabinet as well as their peers in the local business community from March 22 to 23.

Howley said that while it was too early to bring American businessmen into the country considering the upcoming national elections in May and the vacancies in the Cabinet, "it is important that the foreign investor community show their support to the new administration at this early stage."

He said the US trade mission should create excitement among American businessmen back home "who are not getting the real picture on the Philippines from the news they are reading from US papers."

Howley said that during a long-distance conference meeting between 70 American businessmen and the President and her Cabinet last month, "the President impressed the socks off US investors for her candid answers to their questions." He said the US investors found it very refreshing to be dealing with a new administration that is frank about the country's strength and weaknesses.

Howley said Kaye Scholer decided to include a broad array of companies in the trade mission to cover not only information technology but also manufacturing, tourism and financing.

BIG/ B5

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PSE shakeout continues; 3 more brokerages close shop

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE SHAKEOUT continues in the stock brokerage industry with three more brokerages closing shop due to the dismal trading activity at the local bourse.

The Philippine Stock Exchange said the new casualties were Topwin Securities Inc., UPCC Securities Corp. and FEB Securities that filed notices of voluntary suspension of operations.

This brings to six the number of brokerage houses that have shut down operations since the implementation of the Securities Regulation Code in August last year.

The previous three were local subsidiaries of foreign brokerage houses - Sun Hung Kai Securities of Hongkong, OCBC Securities of Singapore and Orion Squire Capital Inc. of Korea's Tong Yang group.

Brokers cited the SRC as the culprit behind the thinning volume of stock transactions at the PSE as it barred brokers from trading shares for their own account unless they got two separate licenses.

PSE sources said Topwin, which named Erap mistress Joy Melendrez as one of its directors, was forced to shut down operations because it lost its main clients- state-pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System – following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada was alleged to have used his political influence to compel the SSS and GSIS to invest their funds in the stock market through favored brokerage firms. Former SS and GSIS heads were scheduled to justify before the courts.

Topwin, which was one of the favored brokerage firms, used to handle one of the biggest volumes of transactions at the PSE at the height of President Estrada's power, despite only a year of operations.

UPCC Securities owned by stock broker Edgardo Kalaw, on the other hand, cited the thin market as its reason for closing down.

FEB Securities, for its part, shut down as part of the merger between the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Far East Bank and Trust Co. BPI and FEBTC combined the operations of their stock brokerage units.

Cabinet offers Maynilad ₱17 rates hike

By CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE MACAPAGAL administration has offered Maynilad Water Services Inc. some form of relief, but it won't be an automatic foreign exchange pricing mechanism.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System administrator Jose Mabanta said members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet agreed that Maynilad should be allowed to raise its rates from P6 to P17 per cubic meter over a period of one year to recover P2.75 billion in foreign exchange losses.

The increase, however, would not be through a mechanism--referred to as an "auto-Cera"—that would allow the concessionaire to automatically raise its rates in line with the peso's movement against the US dollar.

An auto-Cera would entail an increase of as much as P64 per cubic meter.

Mabanta said Maynilad could be given relief through an "extraordinary pricing adjustment," or EPA, mechanism contained in its contract with the MWSS.

He said although the contract allowed an EPA increase only once a year, a second adjustment could be allowed "depending on the circumstances."

At the start of the year, the MWSS Regulatory Office and board of trustees allowed Maynilad to raise, on account of inflation and the peso's depreciation, its basic water charges by 45 centavos per cubic meter.

The adjustments was lower than what Maynilad, which was P1.45 per cubic meter.

Officials of Maynilad earlier insisted that instead of a fixed fee, the MWSS Regulatory Office should come up with a mechanism that would allow the concessionaire to automatically adjust its rates in line with the peso's movement against the dollar.

Maynilad threatened earlier to end its contract with the MWSS, citing huge foreign exchange-related losses that it said were bleeding it dry.

The company had since taken a softer position on the issue and said it was now ready to work out a compromise with the government.

COUNTRY SHARES
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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,950,000	2,000,000/2,100,000 *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	115,000	
CELEBRITY SPORTS	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	550,000*/700,000 **
FOREST HILLS A	280,000	290,000
LUISITA GOLF		550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000	450,000/525,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000	
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	825,000/900,000 *	850,000
ORCHARD A		300,000
PUERTO AZUL	130,000	140,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	230,000	250,000
RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		260,000
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TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS COUNTRY GOLF		1,250,000 *
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Music acquires French sites

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

MUSIC.COM Inc., the New York-based subsidiary of locally listed Music Corp., has acquired two French websites to gain headway into the highly unpredictable European market.

In a disclosure, Music yesterday informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that Music.com acquired www.musique.com and www.musiques.com from Paris-based Dotcomway.

The sites were the vehicles used to provide content to another Internet subsidiary, Music.com France SA, its first European venture.

"The creation of Music.com France gives us an immediate presence in the local French music scene and access to the greater European market," Music.com chair and chief executive Philippe Bellosguardo said.

"Along with Music.com Asia, the creation of Music.com France allows us to provide localized content and services in the world's three most important markets, North America, Europe and Asia," he added.

Music.com SA will focus on local music content and information to provide Music.com a competitive advantage in France and establish its strategic presence in the European music and Internet markets.

Relaunched as www.france.music.com to which the two acquired websites would be redirected, the new French music portal would feature local community content, information and services covering all aspects and genres of French and international music.

Philippine Astor, president and chief executive of Music.com France, said: "Music.com offers record labels and artists an immediate full-service Internet solution and offline marketing program that reaches beyond their traditional borders.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, March 20, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.2	11,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68.5	70	68.5	70	810,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	51	51	20,000
Global Business Bank Inc	72.5	75	72.5	75	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	225	225	219	220	88,100
Philippine National Bank	48.5	48.5	47.5	48	99,100
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	29.5	28	29.5	63,600
Philippine Trust Co.	60	60	60	60	4,900
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	20.75	20	20	60,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1215	1210	1215	5,910
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	24,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	865	875	860	875	13,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	1,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	1,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	500,000
Piltel	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	40,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	780	780	765	765	45,570
Ivantage Corp.	0.98	1	0.98	0.99	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.0575	110,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	46	46.5	46	46.5	2,900
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55	54.5	55	538,600
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	1,737,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.88	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.06	1.06	1	1	3,150,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.36	0.36	1,660,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	162,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	11,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	300,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	175,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	35	35	34.5	34.5	44,000
Pancake House Inc	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	105,000
RFM Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	25,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	48	48	14,800
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53	52.5	53	41,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	688,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	1,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	10,000
A Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	17,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	1,316,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.39	0.39	410,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	1,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1	1	1,421,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22.5	22.5	21.5	21.5	288,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.83	140,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	265,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.14	2.14	375,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	0.93	0.93	0.89	0.89	80,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	0.93	0.93	0.89	0.89	130,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.75	0.78	840,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2,800,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	530,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	76,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2,000
Music Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	354,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.71	0.65	0.71	80,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.91	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11	306,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	830,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.59	0.59	5,970,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	42.5	42.5	41.5	41.5	59,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	160,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.- Pref.	495	495	490	490	1,860
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	116,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	9,080,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	460,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	3,910,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	780,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.35	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.12	1.9	1.92	15,960,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	2,050,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0725	0.08	0.06	0.08	6,300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	3,386,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	3,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.21	1,100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Mln. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	9,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,700,000
Sinophil Corporation	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	900,000
South China Resources Inc	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	350,000

DISCLOSURES

SM Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 4 p.m. at the Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PURE Foods Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 16, 3 p.m. at the 23/F JMT Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of March 5 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 18, 2 p.m. at the Balmori Room of Peninsula Manila, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 29 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of the **iPeople Inc.** were Orlando Vea, Ramon Jocson, Marco Santos and Yvonne Yuchengco.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 9 with record date set on March 26.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from March 29 to April 20, 3 p.m. at the Green Hall Bldg., RAGC Compound, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of March 8 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BASIC Consolidated Inc. announced that Ramon Mayuga is scheduled to retire as the company's president and CEO on March 31. Elected to replace him was Oscar De Venecia. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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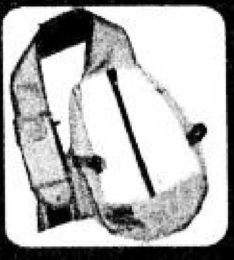

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EXALTACION C. RAMOS

Peacefully called by our Lord
on March 18, 2001
at the age of 62
to join her husband
Maximo B. Ramos, Jr.

Her bereaved children Martha, Max and Cheryl,
Miguel and Con, Martin and Hedda;
her grandchildren Angelica,
Alexandra, Andrea and Ica;
her brothers Senen and Rodolfo;
her brothers and sisters in-law,
and other relatives, request pious readers
to pray for her as she rejoins her Creator.

Her remains lie in state at the
Capilla de San Francisco,
Santuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati.

The funeral mass will be held
at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 24, 2001
at the Capilla de San Francisco.
After the mass, her remains will be brought
to Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque,
for cremation.

Our Beloved

CRISPIN BATAL GASTARDO

Joined his Creator on March 15, 2001 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Basing**; children **Ces** and **Omar Conaco**, **Tess** and **Nick Fountis**, **Boy** and **Ayen** (†), **Babie** and **Don Toporoff**, **Tito** and **Rose**, and **Nennette** and **Virgil Urgel**; grandchildren **Chiqui**, **Marc**, **J**, **Christie**, **Lyn**, **Ynna**, **Leila**, **Aea**, **Andrew**, **Jason**, **Justtine**, **Yza**, **Ian**, **Mico**, **Mia**; and their relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body now lies in state at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu. On March 23, 2001, he will be transferred to the Malbago Chapel in Daanbantayan, Cebu after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Mabolo Parish Church. Interment is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., March 24, 2001 at the Bateria, Daanbantayan Cemetery.

CATALINA A. VDA. DE BATONGBACAL

peacefully joined her Creator on March 19, 2001 at the age of 104.

Her loving children **Virginia**, **Mario**, **Guillermo** (†), and **Leon**, together with her brothers **Fidel** (†) and **Emeterio**, and sisters **Petra** (†) and **Severina**, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at Patubig (near Marilao Temporary Exit, MNDR), Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 22, 2001, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Marilao Parish Church, Poblacion, Marilao, Bulacan.

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Matthew 10:39

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Penthouse dreams

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

YOU'D be hard-pressed to find any sign of an economic slowdown at the way penthouses of top-end condominiums are priced in this country.

Barely had the ink dried in the news release when a penthouse unit at the still-to-be-turned over Pacific Plaza Towers had already been leased for P320,000 a month against the published asking price of "only" P300,000.

Apparently Pacific Plaza Towers (not to be confused with the Pacific Plaza along Ayala Avenue, which was also a Metro Pacific project) can command such a premium because of its monopolistic vantage view over the sprawling green expanse of the Manila Golf and Polo clubs.

Besides, of the top-end condos in Makati, only Pacific Plaza Towers have—more correctly, had—a penthouse available for lease.

On the other hand, the penthouses in Roxas Triangle, the Ayala project beside the Mandarin hotel (the only residential condominium which Metro Pacific considers a competition), are all set to be occupied by the unit owners, according to the market grapevine.

Moreover, Roxas Triangle is still, what, a year away from turnover?

Going back to the Pacific Plaza Towers, the listed price for an inner end, 550-square-meter penthouse, now that the building is ready for turnover, is P75 million, cash.

Given current T-bill rates versus current lease returns, clearly it does not make business sense, assuming that you had the pile of idle cash, to acquire a penthouse for "investment" purposes.

But then again, the rich are different from you and me. Sometimes, they acquire properties, toys and even sweet young things simply to make a statement. Or, at the 54th floor, the country's tallest, to be on top of every one else.

The other Pacific

OKAY, you have the pile of cash. But is there a penthouse suitable for a man-of-your-means that is on the market—for sale, not lease—right here, right now?

Only two are available, according to the market grapevine, and both of them are at the Pacific Plaza on Ayala.

Both penthouses are owned by taipan Henry Sy and have been on the market for some time now.

The downside is that the two units are bare and are a concrete shell, having been unoccupied and unfinished since the building was turned over to the homeowners in the early '90s.

Assuming that you can chew down the taipan or his equally tough daughter, Teresita, for a mutually acceptable price, you will still have to hurdle the homeowners' association and the tenants below and across the hallway as to what time slot construction work can be done to the units.

Tatang, by way of backgrounder, had reserved the penthouses for his sons, but the boys, who were then starting their own families, decided that their tykes would have better chances of growing into tycoons if they were living on terra firma and had the gardens and lawns of Forbes to roam.

The mall king can afford to let the penthouses sit idle (asking price at one time: P100 million each) since the penthouses came via an exchange deal in return for the use of Tatang's empty lot beside neighboring Ritz. In return for the use of the land as construction depot, Metro Pacific gave the Sys two penthouse units.

Meter for meter, that empty lot along Ayala and the two penthouse units are the most unproductive properties in the country today.

But then again, if you were Henry Sy, that is clearly the least of your worries.

Heard through the grapevine

IF you are an Atenean or an Assumptionista and a child of the Sixties and Seventies, the only place to be on a Thursday night is the Conway's of Makati Shangri-La.

By word of mouth, Conway's has been packing 'em in ever since it hired the Spirit of '67 (so-called because the band members are classmates of Ateneo High School Class 1967) to play at the bar during the dark days of the impeachment trial.

Since then, the place has been literally jumping every Thursday night with all the bonhomie, banter and, yes, dancing reminiscent of high school days; even a sprinkling of green-eyed La Sallites and some disciples of Class '55 have been trying to get in and blend with the cheery crowd. That is, if they could find any empty seats.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PLDT seen acquiring majority stake in ETPI

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has expressed interest in acquiring a majority stake in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. by easing out ETPI's Australian partner, according to a person familiar with the situation.

A senior ETPI official revealed that PLDT international business sector head Conrado Hernandez met with ETPI president Salvador Hizon last week to convey PLDT's desire to acquire ETPI.

PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan told the INQUIRER he had no comment at this time, and that he had yet to check the information out with Hernandez.

Australian Gigahertz Network Pty. Ltd. currently controls ETPI with a 40-percent direct stake and another 17.7 percent held through local partner PRN Philippines Inc.

"(Mr. Hernandez) told Hizon about PLDT's plan to buy out AGN. I don't think the Australians know about this yet (since) they are still finalizing the acquisition of another 17.7-percent stake," a person close to Hizon said.

PLDT had expressed interest in acquiring ETPI to support its data business. The company, however, lost interest, allowing Australian Gigahertz to move in and close a deal with ETPI last year.

Australian Gigahertz acquired the 40-percent interest of UK firm Cable & Wireless Plc in ETPI for $21 million.

Because of a law that prohibited foreign firms from owning more than 40-percent of a local telecommunications company, Australian Gigahertz formed PRN Philippines to acquire the 17.7-percent stake held by Aerocom Investors & Management Inc. in ETPI.

A source familiar with the negotiations said PRN Philippines and Aerocom was set to conclude a deal this month, and that the ETPI board would waive its right-of-first-refusal on this stake. It was not known how much Aerocom was selling its stake, but it would involve more than 6 million shares.

Another source in the company said Hizon would have to step down as ETPI president after PRN Philippines and Aerocom conclude a deal.

Industry observers question whether PLDT is really interested in acquiring control of ETPI considering its mobile phone subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc., is itself selling a 9.8-percent stake in ETPI to PRN Philippines, Australian Gigahertz's local partner.

Smart hopes to unload its stake in ETPI before the end of the month.

Gov't sees heftier growth . . .

(From page B1)

since the People Power Revolution of 1986 have dismantled cartels, monopolies and other forms of crony capitalism left over from the decades of protectionism and import-substitution under the Marcos regime, bringing down tariff barriers, deregulated key sectors such as telecommunications, transport, insurance and banking and thus opened the economy to the global market;

- The Philippine economy was less severely affected than its neighbors by the Asian crisis and its banking system remained sound, and
- The country's main long-term assets include its wealth of agricultural resources and its young and fast-growing population. *Doris C. Dumlao*

BSP to cut key rates following Fed move

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is seen slashing its overnight rates again following a cut in the US Federal Reserves' key rates.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank would take its cue from the Federal Open Market Committee, which last night cut interest rates for a third time this year in an effort to keep the record US economic expansion from ending.

The US Fed slashed its rates given the continued weak state of manufacturing in the United States and the cautious mood of consumers, whose spending accounts for two-thirds of all economic activity.

The cut also came following a huge sell-off in Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average last week suffered its biggest weekly drop in 11 years.

Buenaventura said the local financial markets had already assumed that the BSP would cut its rates by 50-basis points.

The central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates currently stand at 10.5 percent and 12.75 percent, respectively.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board is expected to raise the central bank's rates when it meets tomorrow.

The last time the central bank brought down its overnight lending and borrowing rates was on Monday last week, when it cut its rates by half-a-percentage point.

From early December to mid-February, monetary authorities gradually brought down the BSP's policy rates back to pre-crisis levels. The BSP raised overnight rates by four percentage points on Oct. 12 after the "Juetengate" scandal eroded investor confidence in the economy.

RP, South Korea agree to end petrochem row

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES and South Korea have agreed to settle their differences to avert a showdown concerning the imposition of high tariffs on petrochemical products from the Hyundai and LG group of companies.

A source said trade officials from the Philippines and South Korea were set to go to the negotiating table anew in Manila in the next few months to iron out their dispute over the Philippine government's imposition of an anti-dumping duty on polypropylene resins coming from South Korea.

The two countries met previously in Geneva, where they agreed to reach an amicable settlement and avoid a long drawn-out squabble that could fray trade ties between the two countries.

South Korea has already filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against the Philippines after the Tariff Commission slapped an anti-dumping duty ranging from $10 to $150 per metric ton on top of the 15-percent duty on polypropylene resins—raw material used for products like sacks, bags, ropes, furniture, appliance casings and packaging—brought in by South Korean firms Hyundai, LG International, Dae Lim, Hanwah, Kolon, Hyundai, SK Global, Jinwon Trading, Sekitoku, Sewon and Hyosung. The anti-dumping duty will take effect for five years.

The South Korean firms had accounted for 38 percent of the total polypropylene imports into the country since 1998. At least half of polypropylene imports to the Philippines come from South Korea. The Tariff Commission found the 10 South Korean firms selling polypropylene at an average discount of $111 per metric ton compared to their retail prices in South Korea.

Seoul found the anti-dumping duty too harsh and unjust considering their import volume had actually been going down and that the local industry was hardly affected by imports.

JG Petrochemical Corp. of taipan John Gokongwei Jr. and Petrochemical Corp. of Asia and Pacific (Petrocorp) filed the anti-dumping case early this year.

JG and Petrocorp accused the South Korean firms of selling petrochemical products at dumped prices in late 1998, when the two firms were just starting operations.

Aside from dumping, the South Korean firms were also charged with undervaluation and misclassification of their imports in the country.

Polymers, which have a higher tariff rate of 15 percent such as homopolymers, were being declared as copolymers which are charged only a 3-percent duty.

Big US firms . . .

(From page B1)

Computer Associates will sniff around for a possible software development facility here; Continental Air is looking at expanding its flights to the country; Texaco is keen on reviving its stalled power generation project; Prudential Asia Infrastructure Investors Ltd. is scouting for investment opportunities that will entail investments amounting to $20 million, and SCS-Wetherill is interested in a solid waste management project here.

"There is cautious enthusiasm among American businessmen on investing in the Philippines. While the new President has revived confidence in the country, investors are still concerned over corruption and political stability here," Howley said.

Howley cited the country's corrupt judicial system as one of the country's major failings. He said the low pay scale in the judiciary breeds corruption as a judge gets less than $10,000 a year although he or she is expected to decide on cases involving millions of dollars.

Howley said mission members would take a fresh look at the country after most of them have taken off the Philippines from their radar screens as early as 1999 due to the inept Estrada administration.

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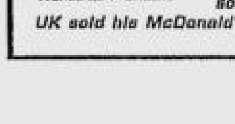
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CURRENCIES

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United States	Dollar	1.112223	1.000000	48.5510
Japan	Yen	0.009046	0.008133	0.3949
United Kingdom	Pound	1.585808	1.425800	69.2240
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142612	0.128222	6.2253
Switzerland	Franc	0.652178	0.586373	28.4690
Canada	Dollar	0.710459	0.638774	31.0131
Singapore	Dollar	0.626958	0.563698	27.3681
Australia	Dollar	0.555002	0.499002	24.2270
Bahrain	Dinar	2.950351	2.652661	128.7893
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296569	0.266645	12.9459
Brunei	Dollar	0.624493	0.561482	27.2605
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025399	0.022836	1.1087
UAE	Dirham	0.302818	0.272264	13.2187
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000773	0.0375
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.899100	43.6522
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.459703	22.3190
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137067	6.6547
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407994	19.8085
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065340	3.1723
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022288	1.0821
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000464	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151218	7.3418
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004485	0.2178
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005404	0.2624
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022288	1.0821
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.141622	55.4269

DOF sees public sector deficit hitting ₱141.3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is expecting the country's consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) for 2000 to have ballooned to P141.32 billion, or nearly double the programmed P77.64 billion.

The DOF said the single biggest reason behind this scenario was the overshooting of the national government's budget deficit ceiling. From the original target of P62.5 billion, the budget deficit widened to P136.11 billion.

The Macapagal administration vowed to maintain fiscal prudence and rely more on the markets instead of shelling out scarce funds for state-initiated economic pump-priming programs. However, the budget deficit has been expanding beyond the targeted level due to tax collection shortfalls and delays in the privatization of state-owned assets.

In a press briefing in Malacañang yesterday, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo reiterated the government's commitment to maintain fiscal discipline mainly through reduced spending. However, he said that expenditure cuts would spare the sectors prioritized by the administration such as poverty alleviation programs, agriculture, tourism, education and health.

The CPSD level in 2000, based on DOF estimate, was equivalent to 4.3 percent of the country's gross domestic product, higher than the 2.2-percent share originally targeted.

In 1999, the country's CPSD stood at P100.46 billion or 3.4 percent of GDP.

CPSD covers the fiscal position of the national government, government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), central bank's board of liquidator, government financial institutions, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, local government units and pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System.

It was the national government's fiscal position that weighed heavily on the CPSD last year.

The central bank restructuring was seen to cost P19.13 billion last year which was even lower than the original target of P21.42 billion. The combined deficits of monitored GOCCs were expected to be contained at P18.12 billion, lower than the target of P20-billion.

The SSS and GSIS, the public sector's consistent revenue earners, were seen to have jointly generated P25.85 billion. Other GFIs yielded P3.16 billion while LGUs, P3.83 billion.

DOTC to review ₱5.77-B rural phone program

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications will review the government's P5.77-billion rural telecommunications program that aims to provide basic telephone services to all barangays and municipalities in the country.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon D. Alvarez yesterday said he had ordered a review of the project to determine its efficiency and sustainability. He expected the technical audit report to be completed by the middle of next month.

The rural telecommunication project, called the Alternative Communications Program, was supposed to be implemented and funded by the private sector. Participants in the program will be given incentives. However, the project did not take off due to the change in the government.

Alvarez, however, said the Macapagal administration remained keen on the project as it would benefit a big number of Filipinos in the countryside. Under the draft ACP, a telecenter will be set up in each municipality with an Internet-ready multimedia personal computer. The computer will be hooked to either an existing public calling office, a very small aperture terminal (VSAT) station or a landline facility.

The ACP also provides for the installation of a scanner, printer and an uninterrupted power supply with automatic voltage regulator, interface devices to connect the PC to the existing PCO terminal equipment or telephone line, a modem, a telephone set, accessories and basic office supplies.

A prepaid card type payphone will also be installed in each barangay that will be connected to the telecenter in the municipality.

Among the possible incentives to encourage private sector participation include tax and duty-free importation of telecommunications equipment, exemption from value-added tax and 10-percent overseas communications tax, reduction of fees for spectrum use and establishment of a one-stop shop for all clearance permits and licenses to speed up processing.

"There is still a long way to go before all municipalities and barangays gain access to basic telecommunication services," the DOTC said.

Only 1,158 out of 1,525 municipalities and 34,100 out of 41,941 barangays have public calling offices or payphone stations.

The ACP aims to put lines in areas neglected by existing phone firms because of the perceived high cost.

GOINGS-ON

Outstanding business ideas

PLANTERS Development Bank is sponsoring the 1st Business Idea for Development and Achievement (Bida) Awards, a program that recognizes outstanding business ideas among the students of CHEd-recognized schools in Metro Manila.

The Bida Awards is a joint undertaking among Plantersbank and four government agencies, namely: the National Small and Medium Enterprises Development Council (SMEDC), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Plantersbank, the lone co-sponsor and co-organizer from the private sector, will provide the cash prizes that will go to the students and their advisers.

E-commerce firm declares dividends

ALLIANCE Technologies Corp., a subsidiary of Boulevard Holdings Inc. (BHI) dealing with information technology projects, has declared dividends of between P12 million and P15 million from profitable operations for 2000.

Total sales in 2000 was placed at P162 million or a compounded sales growth of 26 percent a year for the past six years.

ATC president Antonio Fernando said the firm last year captured 65 percent of the total market share in telecommunications industry.

ATC supports about 31 call centers, 13 of which are multinational firms including Citibank, IBM Philippines, AIG Credit Card Center, American Express, APL-NOL, Intel Phils., Amway, DHL Groups Worldwide. Other ATC clients include Cybercity, WG&A, Lucent Technologies, AT&T and FedEx.

Fernando said that despite its lean manpower backup of 46, the firm has marked a profit increase of 10 percent.

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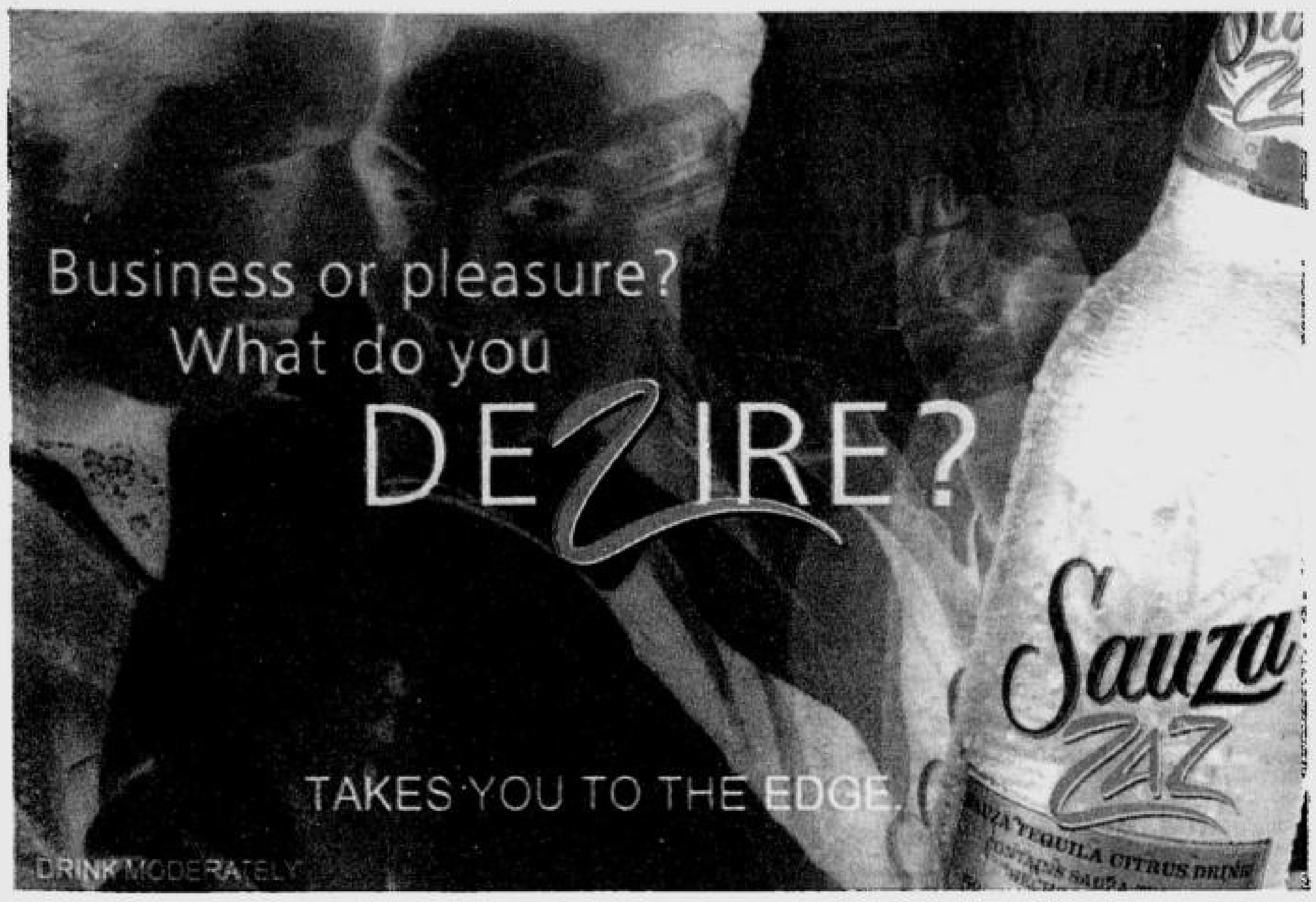


Bush 'confident' about economy

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Monday he was "very confident" about the US economy, the latest twist in the White House's good news, bad news routine on whether US growth was headed up, down or sideways.

"I'm very confident about our economy," Bush told reporters as he met Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori at the White House. "I know it can beat expectations."

"I will explain that to him as clearly as I can, about, when our policies are in place, how optimistic I am about economic growth," Bush added.

Since well before he took office, the Republican president and his aides have sounded warnings about the US economy. Vice President Dick Cheney led the pack, saying on Dec. 3 while the presidential election was still being contested, the United States might be on the "front edge of a recession."

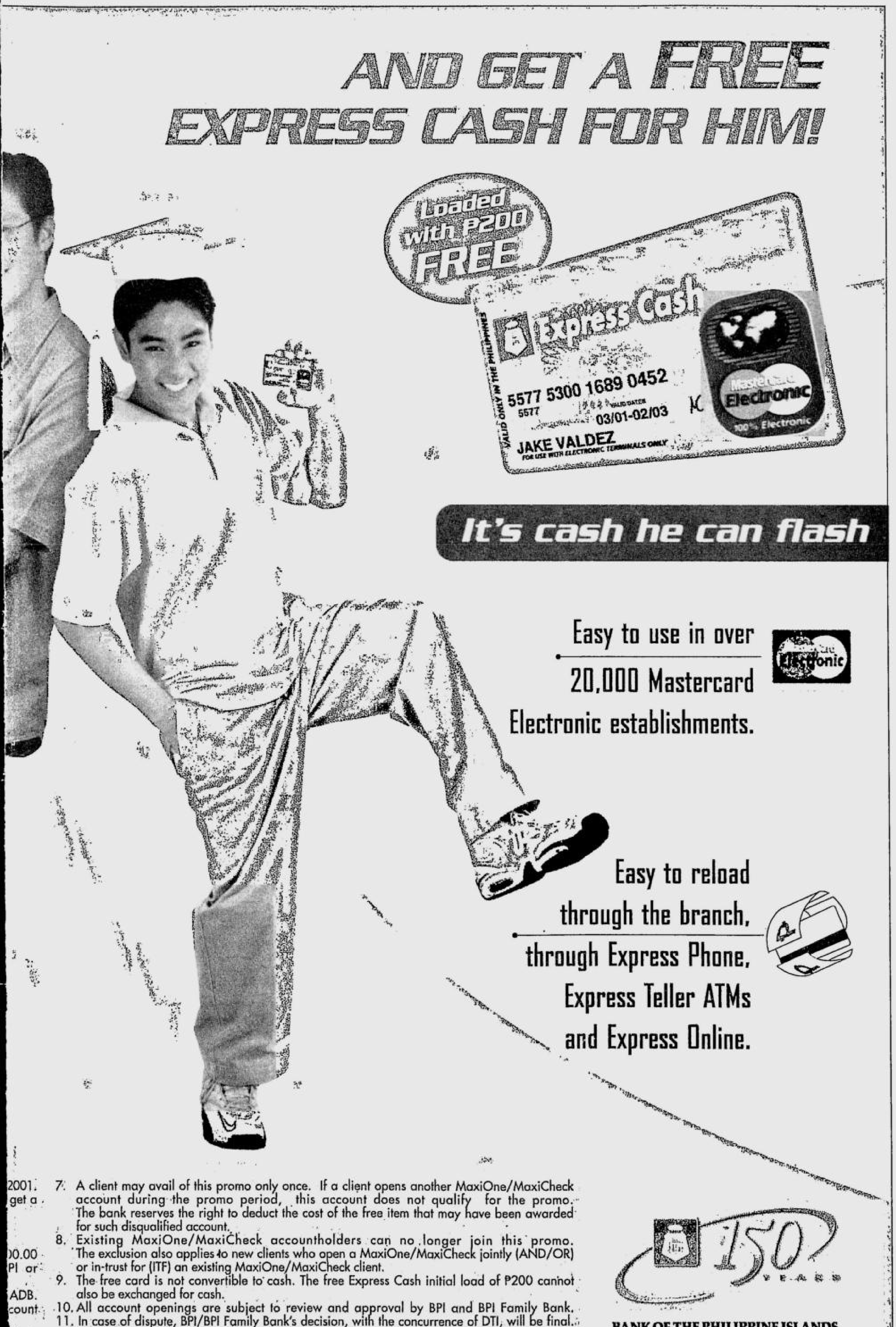
In sending his proposed $1.6-trillion, 10-year tax cut to Congress on Feb. 8, Bush said "a warning light is flashing on the dashboard of our economy, and we can't just drive on and hope for the best."

The comments have drawn criticism from Democrats as well as some economists that the Bush administration has been "talking down" the US economy for political purposes.

The White House has said Bush is simply being straight with the country in an environment where US growth, which raced along at 4.8 percent in the first quarter of 2000, slowed to 1.1 percent in the final three months of the year.

As the stock market plunged last week, Bush said he was concerned that many Americans had lost money. While citing the weak economy to sell his tax plan, Bush appeared to moderate his rhetoric by saying, "I've got great faith in our economy."

By Saturday, however, he had reverted to pessimism in his weekly radio address, arguing that a weak US economy needed his proposed $1.6-trillion, 10-year tax cut to recover. *Reuters*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US heartened by Japan's new economic tack

WASHINGTON—The United States said Monday it was encouraged by Japan's efforts to breathe life into its crisis-threatened economy, as officials praised an "unusually explicit " economic diagnosis offered by Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

President George W. Bush's administration was confident that Japan was going in the right direction after talks with Mori at the White House, despite fears its economic paralysis might soon worsen into a serious slump, a senior administration official said.

"Certainly the problems put on the table are the right problems to focus on," said the official, adding that the specific language used by Mori about Japan's economy in a joint statement with Bush was heartening.

In the statement, Mori pledged to vigorously promote structural and regulatory reform to "revitalize the Japanese economy and strengthen the financial system, including through effectively addressing the issues of corporate debt and non-performing loans."

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the statement was an expression of "significant will" by Japan to tackle its economic problems.

"There was a rather unusually explicit acknowledgement both of the problem and of the government of Japan's commitment to find ways to effectively address that problem," said the US official.

Slight differences of emphasis were evident however on the issue of how Japan should extricate itself from trouble.

"The President did note that some in Japan felt that the best solution was to export their way out of the problem," the senior US official said.

"But he emphasized, and the two leaders agreed, that the answer is strong domestic growth brought about by deep, structural reform—regulatory reform, in particular, as well as opening up to foreign direct investment." *AFP*

Asia growth forecasts cut

SINGAPORE—Economists have pared growth forecasts for Asia as its No. 1 customer, the United States, takes a cyclical downturn after a decade of growth and as demand for electronic goods withers in the post-Internet-mania era, Reuters latest quarterly economic survey showed.

With few exceptions, estimates for 2001 were revised down compared with a similar survey three months ago.

The region-wide study of over 120 analysts also showed growth rates are anticipated to be well down on those enjoyed in 2000 when the economic bounce saw gross domestic product in some countries getting back to pre-crisis levels, in terms of the headline numbers at least.

"Economic reports and the direction of GDP forecast revisions highlight that downside uncertainties to the near-term growth outlook remain large," said Bernhard Eschweiler, Asia-Pacific head of economic and market research at JP Morgan.

"Recession in the first half of the year is a serious risk for the United States, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, while a recovery in the second half of the year is only a forecast."

Since the last poll in December it has become increasingly clear US economic growth is slowing and maybe even grinding to a halt. Growth prospects have been pared back pretty much globally as sliding stock markets strip away the wealth effect on not only companies, but individuals as well. *Reuters*

Lucent in deal with Verizon

NEW YORK—Verizon Wireless, the No. 1 US wireless telephone company, has awarded a three-year, $5-billion contract to telecommunications equipment maker Lucent Technologies Inc. for gear that will increase the capacity of Verizon's wireless network.

The deal, designed to hasten Verizon's introduction of next-generation services, will make Lucent the largest supplier of high-speed, high-capacity wireless infrastructure to Verizon Wireless, a joint venture of Verizon Communications and Britain's Vodafone Group Plc. Lucent will now supply 65 percent of Verizon Wireless' network.

The contract marked a significant win for Lucent, which has been struggling over the past year with massive losses, product development problems and manufacturing constraints. Lucent edged out other vendors, such as Nortel Networks Corp., which already provides some wireless equipment to Verizon.

Shares of Lucent jumped nearly 20 percent to close at $11.97 on the New York Stock Exchange. Shares of Verizon gained 3.27 percent to close at $48.88, also on the NYSE.

With Lucent's products, services and software, Verizon Wireless will introduce high-speed mobile Internet services without substantial additional investment in new base stations. *Reuters*

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

"Roger... and out"

Q. Who is Roger? And why is he always out?

A. In popular radio parlance, "Roger" means "I understand," and "Out" means that you're ending the conversation. But why "Roger?" Usage of "Roger" in radio transmissions dates to World War II. "Roger" was the word in the phonetic alphabet that stood for the letter *R*. "Roger" was an abbreviation for "received," and eventually became radiospeak for "OK" or "I understand." Modern soldiers, however, are often confused by the origin as "Roger" does not stand for the letter *R* in the current phonetic alphabet used by most military organizations, "Romeo" does.

In Other Words. "Do you understand?" in various tongues: *Comprenez?* (French); *Comprende?* (Spanish); *Verstehen Sie?* (German); *Capisce?* (Italian); *Forstar De?* (Swedish); *Mengerti?* (Indonesian); *Wakari-mass Ka?* (Japanese); *Ni Dongle?* (Chinese) *Inta Fehim?* (Arabic); *Asegessumnigga?* (Korean).

Classified Odd. It was an important bout for boxer Danny' Osnato of New York City -- and his trainer told him exactly how to play it. His advice: Dance the first round out. If Osnato kept dancing, the other guy wouldn't be able to lay a glove on hum. Then, in the second round, Osnato would start swinging. The obedient boxer did just what his trainer said. And it worked. Osnato's footwork was phenomenal. The opponent didn't hit him once. But after 47 seconds of intense dancing, Osnato dropped to the canvas, unconscious. His opponent won by TKO.

WORD WATCH

Paeklat : a Tagalog verbal play on either the Spanish *echar* ('boast, brag') or the French *éclat* ('brilliance, dazzling effect').

PDI -- March 21, 2001

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
TANGGAPAN NG PANGULO
Pangasiwaan Sa Pagpapaunlad Ng Kalakhang Maynila
(Metropolitan Manila Development Authority)
"Tapat na Serbisyo sa Bagong Milenyo"

INVITATION TO PROPOSER

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be used to pay for eligible contract for the supply, delivery, and commissioning of equipment for the Anti-Smoke Belching Component under the project.

The Metropolitan Manila Devlopment Authority (MMDA) now invites sealed quotations from eligible suppliers who are **member countries of ADB** for the supply of the following items for the purpose of the Project.

Package	Equipment	Specification	Quantity
1	OPACITY METERS	Based on the Opacity meter principle (not Reflectance or filter type) Certified by DENR as complying with DENR Administrative Order No. 2000-81 (IRRs of the Clean Air Act of 1999) Fully Portable (around 10 kg) Non-sensitive to ambient temperature, humidity and light conditions Range of light absorption coefficient = 0.00-9.99 m ⁻¹ Display resolution = 0.01 m ⁻¹ Accuracy = ± 0.05 m ⁻¹ Power Supply = Rechargeable battery IBM PC Interface (details to be furnished) Built-In Printer 2 years warranty and 2 years supply of spare parts	25 units
2	CO and HCs Analyzer	Based on the NDIR measurement methodology Certified by DENR as complying with DENR Administrative Order No. 2000-81 (IRRs of the Clean Air Act of 1999) Fully portable (around 10 kg) Non-sensitive to ambient temperature, humidity and light conditions Range of concentrations: CO - 0 to 10%; HCs (as Hexane) - 0 to 10,000ppm Display Resolution: CO - 0.01% HCs (as Hexane) - 1ppm Accuracy: CO ± 0 10%; HCs (as Hexane) ± 10ppm Power Supply = rechargeable Battery IBM PC Interface Built-in Printer 2 years warranty and 2 years supply of spare parts	20 units

Interested parties may obtain further information from, and acquire the proposal documents, at the office of the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor Air Quality Office, MMDA Building corner Orense Street, EDSA Guadalupe, Makati City, Metro Manila with office FAX 882-06-58 and Telephone No. 882-41-55 to 77 local 366 and 368.

A complete set of proposal documents may be purchased by interested parties starting March 16 to April 16, 2001 upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P1,000.00), in Cash or Manager's Check payable to MMDA.

The MMDA Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without offering any reason, waive the defect therein, and also to accept such proposals which will be most advantageous to the Government. The decision of the MMDA Committee on Awards is final and binding.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO D. MEJOS
AGM for Finance and Administration
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Mar. 21, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICE NO. 4
QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

NOTICE TO BID

Regional Health Office No. 1, Quezon City will conduct public bidding and re-bidding on the following at the Generics Hall.

		Pre-Bidding	Bidding
I	PURIFIED DRINKING WATER	April 2, 2001 10:30 a.m	April 16, 2001 (Re-bid) 10:30 a.m.
II	DRUGS and MEDICINES	April 23, 2001 10:30 a.m.	May 7, 2001 10:30 a.m.
III	MEDICAL/DENTAL LABORATORY and INSECTICIDES	June 4, 2001 10:30 a.m.	June 18, 2001 10:30 a.m.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Apolo P. Quinio, Supply Officer III, tel. no. 913-46-27.

(Sgd.) CONRADO K. GALSIM JR., MD.CPH.CESO III
Director IV

(PDI -- Mar. 21, 2001)

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Harness the power of vision

By Tita Datu Puangco

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I WILL be graduating from college this March. I will soon get into the ranks of the employed. I associate work with routine and boredom, lacking the excitement of friends and school projects. My parents have been advising me to think of what I really want from life. Please give me advice on how I can have a more positive outlook of work life.

Fearful graduate

Moving from the life of a student where you depend a lot on your parents for support to a more financially independent life is a necessary transition. And like any major transition in life, some fear and anxiety may accompany it. William Bridges tells us that we go through endings, move on to a neutral zone and then, to new beginnings.

Endings, like a graduation, mark the closure of your college days. There is excitement involved but you may also experience decreased motivation and a sense of loss. The familiar routine of going to the library and school, partying with friends, and enjoying the comfort of classrooms and teachers are coming to an end.

Then, as you begin the task of job hunting, you are likely to enter a neutral zone. The typical activities consist of writing and making several copies of your resumes, looking at the classified ads, taking tests and going for interviews. These may bring moments of doubt, uncertainty and confusion. But they can also be opportunities for creativity, reorientation and exploration.

New beginnings

When you find a job and begin to work, you experience greater control and renewed energy. You begin to work out a new identity, this time as an employee. A person assumes a new routine, learns a lot and begins to grow his or her learning curve.

What can be a powerful motivator is for you to spend some time to think of what you really want out of life, as your parents advised. I am talking here of creating a vision for yourself. It is never too late or too early to have a vision.

What is vision? Vision is a goal, an aspiration, and an ambition. It is something noble, uplifting and one truly worthy of your attention and energy. Visioning actually comes naturally to men. Of all creatures, only man is capable of visioning and projecting himself into the future. Vision comes in a state of relaxation, it is a creative exercise and may happen with the 4 B's (bed, bath, bus or beach). However, modern man with his frenetic pace has difficulty moving out of his hurried life to relax and visualize his vision.

Blueprint for life

This transition is an excellent time to think through your vision. Get a piece of paper. Imagine how you would want to live 5 years from now. What work will you doing? What position will you be occupying? Would you have a family by then? What lifestyle will you be experiencing? Draw if you can. There is something magical about putting things down in writing. Imagine what you would be doing, thinking and feeling by then.

Visioning is like making a blueprint for your life. If a person builds a house with a blueprint because it would save time, money and resources, why does he not spend time doing a blueprint for his life?

What happens when one does visioning? A person creates within himself a creative tension that allows him to stretch his capabilities, become proactive and move towards greater achievement. What a person can conceptualize, he can actualize. Visioning allows a person to move away from day to day reality, which focuses greatly on reacting to people and events and problem solving.

Can you imagine what life will be today if someone did not envision the cell phone, air-conditioning, the airplane, the car and other modern conveniences? They are products and fruits that were once only dreams and visions in the minds of people.

Action planning

The first part of visioning is creative; the other part is more logical. After visioning, what steps have to taken to move towards your vision? Almost immediately, you can see clearly the logical moves you have to make. It is almost a surprise that things start to happen in your favor because Providence moves along with your commitment, as MH Murray would say.

To constantly make your vision visible, you can condense it into a slogan or phrase and keep it tucked in your wallet. Everyday, look at it and ask, have I moved closer to my vision today?

Now, there may be instances when what you desire does not come true for you. Don't be discouraged but instead listen to that inner voice of God and where He leads you. You may realize that there is something else more enriching and rewarding waiting for you. In short, be committed to your vision, but don't get so attached that your entire life and happiness depend on its fruition. Continue to live life with a sense of adventure balanced with purpose.

Congratulations! All my warm wishes for an exciting working life ahead.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

(Ms Puangco is the CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through email to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

What are your secrets for sales success?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've hit my first slump. I've been the top grossing salesman at my company for years, but suddenly I'm stuck in the middle of the pack. What can I do to turn things around?

Sold out?

Dear Sold,

I got my Ph.D. in sales from Roger. Roger wasn't a professor or a sales trainer; he was a patient at the VA. And I was a student intern assigned to help him read. After having been blind for years, Roger's sight had suddenly returned, thanks to laser surgery. But rather than a blessing, all the visual stimulation confused him, and we'd failed to make any progress despite trying every strategy in the book. Finally, at wit's end, I turned to him. "Any ideas?" For the first time, his pained expression gave way to a smile. "I've been here for six weeks," he said, "and you're the first one to ask!"

So that's how I developed my sales thesis: "use your ears or lose the sale."

Whether you're selling an ice cube to an Eskimo or a raise to your boss, you need to listen to your customer because eventually he'll tell you everything you need. I've adapted the following questions from "You Can't Teach a Kid to Ride a Bike at a Seminar" by Sandler and Hayes (Dutton, 1995). It's an excellent primer on sales for those in a slump or on a roll. Start with the following questions.

1. Are you doing everything you can to identify potential customers? Success at sales is less about glib one-liners than it is about finding people who are ready to buy. In addition to your regular prospects, check out your competitors' customers (they need what you've got) as well as prospects who said no. Maybe you've both learned something since then that will make them change their mind.

2. Do you know what's causing them pain? Ever had something that really bugged you, say a copier that kept breaking down, or an uncomfortable desk chair? Notice how responsive you were when you heard about a more reliable copier or a more comfortable chair? People often buy not to meet a need but to avoid a pain. Have you taken the time to find out what's causing your prospects' pain?

3. How will your product soothe their pain? Charles Revlon said, "In our factories, we make lipstick; in our ads, we sell hope." How can you show them that your product is the best way to ease their pain?

4. How can you help them sell the sale? It rarely takes just one signature to make a sale. Bosses, purchasing departments, other employees: there are usually lots of people who need to sign on. Take the time to ask about the other players and what you can do to convert them.

As it turned out, Roger did have an idea about what would help him read, and a week later, he read me two paragraphs from a book. Thank goodness I'd gotten frustrated enough to ask him for help. Until then, it was just the blind leading the blind.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What is the key to landing a sale?

—A salesperson that's neat, 13%

—A guarantee that can't be beat, 34%

—A price that's really sweet, 53%.

Our top sales tip comes from Fred in Port Orchard, WA. "The first sales slump is important. It's when a novice learns that sales aren't controlled by outside circumstances but by your mind. It's a numbers game that benefits the positive, hard-working believer."

(Email feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Write power resumés...

(From page B16)

power resume that can sell the job applicant and enhance his or her employability.

At the top, center page, write your name in bold letters and your contact address or telephone number in smaller fonts.

The first information after your identification is the "Overview and Job Objective" portion. Write a brief statement that tells the reader what you are, your main qualifications and the objective of your career search.

Your goal and the position you are applying for must be congruent, if not, similar. Otherwise, you might not get considered for the vacancy. Oftentimes, you have to tailor fit this portion of your resume to the job opening so that the recruitment officer will immediately see a perfect match in what he is looking for and what you are offering.

Readability

Be concise. One page is preferred but two will still be all right. A good resume is usually written on a white bond paper, 8 1/2 by 11 inches. Consider the following:

- Use a large, clean sans serif style like Avant Garde or Helvetica or Arial.
- Leave big margins of 1" to 1.25" on each side.
- Do not use lines or borders.
- Use only white or ivory, not colored paper.
- Use lower case letters, except for major headings.

The resume must be properly proofread and devoid of errors. Errors of any kind reflect poorly on the job applicant, especially typographical errors.

If you have to give a duplicate resume, make sure that the copier makes a good reproduction of the original. Otherwise, send two originals.

Most job applicants use a scanner to have their picture printed on the upper right hand of the page. Most companies, however, prefer to receive a simple, recent 2"x2" color passport sized picture.

Organize your resume

Organize your resume well. Group together relevant information, particularly to highlight your competencies, skills or experiences. If you are writing a work history resume, start with the most recent job. Show your educational background by starting with the most recent school attended.

Do not clutter your resume with unnecessary information—color of your eyes or hair, religion, hobbies, etc.

The key point to remember is to help the reader of your resume find a fit between you and the job. Help him match your competencies with the requirements of the job.

Aside from citing position titles, write one-sentence statements about the job responsibilities. Be brief, use action verbs and avoid first person pronouns. You can write after your position title, for example HR supervisor, the following:

"Responsible for recruitment, testing, interviews and short listing applicants."

You don't have to elaborate on the functions in case of commonly understood positions. A better way to show that you have the relevant experience or competence is to enumerate major achievements.

Indicate the inclusive dates when you had the experience. Do not show gaps in your chronology; otherwise explain the gaps during the interview. Play up the good parts of your career and those that are relevant to the job you are applying form. Downplay or obscure the gray areas, if any.

(To be continued next week)

Janet dela Cruz
234 Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City
Residence phone 923-4567

Job Objective

Experienced guidance counselor seeks the position of Director of Counseling Services in a large school

Abilities

- Certified school guidance counselor
- Specialized training in treatment of substance abuse
- Experienced group counseling leader
- Extensive work with private sector community work-study arrangements
- Working knowledge of computer databases

Achievements

- 90 percent of counselees admitted to college
- founded "Your Drug Hotline" with 2,000 callers weekly
- awarded Mother of the Year in 1997 for reducing drug-dependents among the youth in Barangay Commonwealth
- does consulting with DECS on career planning software for students

Experience

June 1992 – present	Guidance Counselor, Miriam College, Quezon City
Oct. 1989 – June 1992	Counselor, Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City
June 1985 – Sept. 1989	History teacher, Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City

Education

Master of Education Guidance and Counseling University of Sto. Tomas, 1985	Bachelor of Science in Education Social Studies and History University of Sto. Tomas, 1993

Focused resume sample

Graduates, join the party!

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

WE welcome all new graduates to the real world of work.

We particularly welcome your unbounded enthusiasm, your idealism, your refreshing ideas, your curiosity, your style, your eagerness and daring, your technological savvy, your willingness to embrace and adjust to new ideas easily, your adventurism, your language, your music, your fears and anxieties, your deep dark secrets, your dreams and schemes, your innocence, your zest for life, your hopes and aspirations, your uniqueness, your youth, your natural you. We need you as much as you need us.

In the workplace, we need you to adhere to certain basics such as dress code, deadlines, punctuality, keeping promises, and basic office etiquette (as in no loud music and conversations, limiting contact with the outside world to business associates, and others on a case to case basis).

As you join the many people at work, you will surely encounter strong culture shock. Hang on to yourself and don't get swallowed by the "establishment" so soon. Be yourself for as long as you can. Remain I-Loc as much as you can. Fight for your freedom and happiness (refer to Recipes, March 7 and 14, 2001 issues).

San Beda visit

Starting with San Beda College today, your friends here at the PDI People at Work (PaW) Section are going on a campus tour to spread the word of career planning. It is very important for those wanting to work to plan their career very carefully even before they start looking for a job. A job is only a step towards building a career. A job should not be your be-all and end-all to the exclusion of your other needs and expectations from life.

We will not be able to reach many schools, therefore, may I share with you here my part in this PaW Career Symposium. My topic is about preparing oneself for a career—A Self-Assessment. This will derail us one more week from our next Workshop on Time and Stress Management but our new graduates deserve our full attention. This is also for you who are in mid-career or in a job transition or at the verge of a second career.

You are now ready with your resume or bio-data or curriculum vitae. May I invite you to pause one more time before you make hundreds of copies for distribution to the top 1,000 corporations and also to headhunters. Let's do this little self-examination to help you make career decisions that will bring you closer to your Personal Vision and Mission.

Self-examination

First, please take time to read and reread the book "Hope for the Flowers" by Trina Paulus to provide you with immunity from being sucked into a world of money, power and materialism when you join the rat race. Realize that it is your decision and nobody else to metamorphose from a creepy crawly earth-bound caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly, free and happy.

Second, you may invest in this very important book called "What Color Is Your Parachute?" by Richard Nelson Bolles. The 2001 Edition is now available. It gives an easy to follow, step by step process and exercises for determining the career best suited for your talents and interests, fully illustrated with beautiful graphics, charts and drawings. One very practical exercise is called "The Party."

Mr. Bolles describes the exercise thus: "The 'The Party' figure in this page represents an aerial view of a room in which a two-day (!) party is taking place. At this party, people with similar or same interests have (for some reason) all gathered in the same corner of the room."

Mirror theory

Please follow these procedures to determine the kind of people with whom you feel comfortable and happy for the longest time. Mr. Bolles believes that people surrounding you at work to one degree or another form part of your work environment that is important to your success. He says that once you have described the people you would most like to be surrounded by, in many cases, you have also described yourself. As in the saying, birds of the same feather flock together. You often see yourself best by looking into the faces of those close to you. Mr. Bolles calls this "The Mirror Theory."

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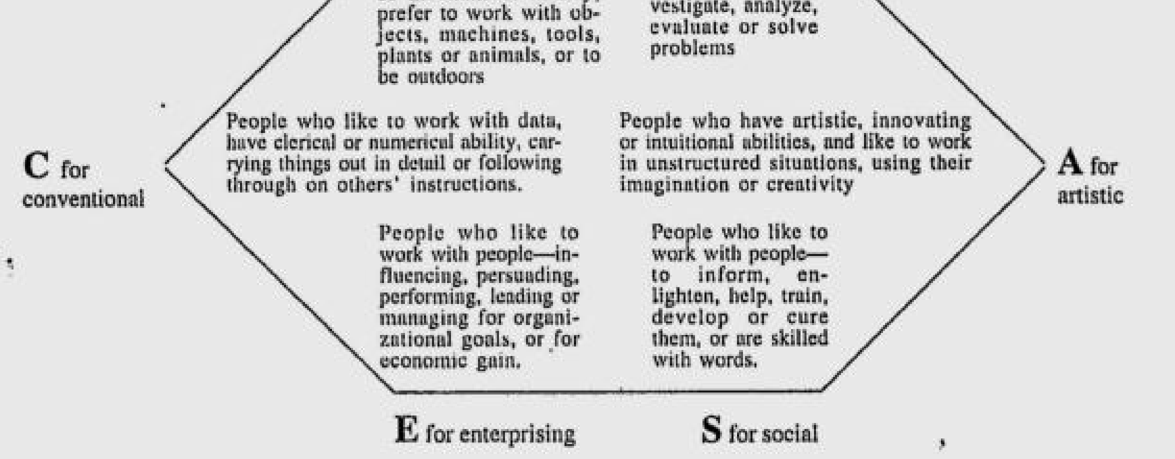
Mr. Bolles suggests that "If your 'Code' turns out to be IAS, for example, therefore, you might write: 'I would like a career or job best if I were surrounded by people who are very curious, and like to analyze or investigate things (I), who are also very innovative (A), and who are bent on trying to help or serve other people (S).'"

Now are these, perhaps, your favorite interests, skills, tasks, inclinations, etc? This is just one of possible ways to examine yourself and make you ready for a career that will make you realize your maximum potential. Continue reflecting and digging into your inner self. You may also visit Mr. Bolles in cyberspace at www.jobhuntersbible.com. Or write us here at PaW for more insights and information.

(Email feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.zzn.com.*)*



R for realistic

People who have athletic or mechanical ability, prefer to work with objects, machines, tools, plants or animals, or to be outdoors

I for investigative

People who like to observe, learn, investigate, analyze, evaluate or solve problems

C for conventional

People who like to work with data, have clerical or numerical ability, carrying things out in detail or following through on others' instructions.

A for artistic

People who have artistic, innovating or intuitional abilities, and like to work in unstructured situations, using their imagination or creativity

E for enterprising

People who like to work with people—influencing, persuading, performing, leading or managing for organizational goals, or for economic gain.

S for social

People who like to work with people—to inform, enlighten, help, train, develop or cure them, or are skilled with words.

Harness the power of vision

By Tita Datu Puangco

I WILL be graduating from college this March. I will soon get into the ranks of the employed. I associate work with routine and boredom, lacking the excitement of friends and school projects. My parents have been advising me to think of what I really want from life. Please give me advice on how I can have a more positive outlook of work life.

Fearful graduate

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Moving from the life of a student where you depend a lot on your parents for support to a more financially independent life is a necessary transition. And like any major transition in life, some fear and anxiety may accompany it. William Bridges tells us that we go through endings, move on to a neutral zone and then, to new beginnings.

Endings, like a graduation, mark the closure of your college days. There is excitement involved but you may also experience decreased motivation and a sense of loss. The familiar routine of going to the library and school, partying with friends, and enjoying the comfort of classrooms and teachers are coming to an end.

Then, as you begin the task of job hunting, you are likely to enter a neutral zone. The typical activities consist of writing and making several copies of your resumes, looking at the classified ads, taking tests and going for interviews. These may bring moments of doubt, uncertainty and confusion. But they can also be opportunities for creativity, reorientation and exploration.

New beginnings

When you find a job and begin to work, you experience greater control and renewed energy. You begin to work out a new identity, this time as an employee. A person assumes a new routine, learns a lot and begins to grow his or her learning curve.

What can be a powerful motivator is for you to spend some time to think of what you really want out of life, as your parents advised. I am talking here of creating a vision for yourself. It is never too late or too early to have a vision.

What is vision? Vision is a goal, an aspiration, and an ambition. It is something noble, uplifting and one truly worthy of your attention and energy. Visioning actually comes naturally to men. Of all creatures, only man is capable of visioning and projecting himself into the future. Vision comes in a state of relaxation, it is a creative exercise and may happen with the 4 B's (bed, bath, bus or beach). However, modern man with his frenetic pace has difficulty moving out of his hurried life to relax and visualize his vision.

Blueprint for life

This transition is an excellent time to think through your vision. Get a piece of paper. Imagine how you would want to live 5 years from now. What work will you doing? What position will you be occupying? Would you have a family by then? What lifestyle will you be experiencing? Draw if you can. There is something magical about putting things down in writing. Imagine what you would be doing, thinking and feeling by then.

Visioning is like making a blueprint for your life. If a person builds a house with a blueprint because it would save time, money and resources, why does he not spend time doing a blueprint for his life?

What happens when one does visioning? A person creates within himself a creative tension that allows him to stretch his capabilities, become proactive and move towards greater achievement. What a person can conceptualize, he can actualize. Visioning allows a person to move away from day to day reality, which focuses greatly on reacting to people and events and problem solving.

Can you imagine what life will be today if someone did not envision the cell phone, air-conditioning, the airplane, the car and other modern conveniences? They are products and fruits that were once only dreams and visions in the minds of people.

Action planning

The first part of visioning is creative; the other part is more logical. After visioning, what steps have to taken to move towards your vision? Almost immediately, you can see clearly the logical moves you have to make. It is almost a surprise that things start to happen in your favor because Providence moves along with your commitment, as MH Murray would say.

To constantly make your vision visible, you can condense it into a slogan or phrase and keep it tucked in your wallet. Everyday, look at it and ask, have I moved closer to my vision today?

Now, there may be instances when what you desire does not come true for you. Don't be discouraged but instead listen to that inner voice of God and where He leads you. You may realize that there is something else more enriching and rewarding waiting for you. In short, be committed to your vision, but don't get so attached that your entire life and happiness depend on its fruition. Continue to live life with a sense of adventure balanced with purpose.

Congratulations! All my warm wishes for an exciting working life ahead.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

(Ms Puangco is the CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through email to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

What are your secrets for sales success?

WORKING WOUNDED
By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've hit my first slump. I've been the top grossing salesman at my company for years, but suddenly I'm stuck in the middle of the pack. What can I do to turn things around?

Sold out?

Dear Sold,

I got my Ph.D. in sales from Roger. Roger wasn't a professor or a sales trainer; he was a patient at the VA. And I was a student intern assigned to help him read. After having been blind for years, Roger's sight had suddenly returned, thanks to laser surgery. But rather than a blessing, all the visual stimulation confused him, and we'd failed to make any progress despite trying every strategy in the book. Finally, at wit's end, I turned to him. "Any ideas?" For the first time, his pained expression gave way to a smile. "I've been here for six weeks," he said, "and you're the first one to ask!"

So that's how I developed my sales thesis: "use your ears or lose the sale."

Whether you're selling an ice cube to an Eskimo or a raise to your boss, you need to listen to your customer because eventually he'll tell you everything you need. I've adapted the following questions from "You Can't Teach a Kid to Ride a Bike at a Seminar" by Sandler and Hayes (Dutton, 1995). It's an excellent primer on sales for those in a slump or on a roll. Start with the following questions.

1. Are you doing everything you can to identify potential customers? Success at sales is less about glib one-liners than it is about finding people who are ready to buy. In addition to your regular prospects, check out your competitors' customers (they need what you've got) as well as prospects who said no. Maybe you've both learned something since then that will make them change their mind.

2. Do you know what's causing them pain? Ever had something that really bugged you, say a copier that kept breaking down, or an uncomfortable desk chair? Notice how responsive you were when you heard about a more reliable copier or a more comfortable chair? People often buy not to meet a need but to avoid a pain. Have you taken the time to find out what's causing your prospects' pain?

3. How will your product soothe their pain? Charles Revlon said, "In our factories, we make lipstick; in our ads, we sell hope." How can you show them that your product is the best way to ease their pain?

4. How can you help them sell the sale? It rarely takes just one signature to make a sale. Bosses, purchasing departments, other employees; there are usually lots of people who need to sign on. Take the time to ask about the other players and what you can do to convert them.

As it turned out, Roger did have an idea about what would help him read, and a week later, he read me two paragraphs from a book. Thank goodness I'd gotten frustrated enough to ask him for help. Until then, it was just the blind leading the blind.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What is the key to landing a sale?

—A salesperson that's neat, 13%

—A guarantee that can't be beat, 34%

—A price that's really sweet, 53%.

Our top sales tip comes from Fred in Port Orchard, WA. "The first sales slump is important. It's when a novice learns that sales aren't controlled by outside circumstances but by your mind. It's a numbers game that benefits the positive, hard-working believer."

(Email feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Write power resumés...

(From page B16)

power resume that can sell the job applicant and enhance his or her employability.

At the top, center page, write your name in bold letters and your contact address or telephone number in smaller fonts.

The first information after your identification is the "Overview and Job Objective" portion. Write a brief statement that tells the reader what you are, your main qualifications and the objective of your career search.

Your goal and the position you are applying for must be congruent, if not, similar. Otherwise, you might not get considered for the vacancy. Oftentimes, you have to tailor fit this portion of your resume to the job opening so that the recruitment officer will immediately see a perfect match in what he is looking for and what you are offering.

Readability

Be concise. One page is preferred but two will still be all right. A good resume is usually written on a white bond paper, 8 1/2 by 11 inches. Consider the following:

- Use a large, clean sans serif style like Avant Garde or Helvetica or Arial.
- Leave big margins of 1" to 1.25" on each side.
- Do not use lines or borders.
- Use only white or ivory, not colored paper.
- Use lower case letters, except for major headings.

The resume must be properly proofread and devoid of errors. Errors of any kind reflect poorly on the job applicant, especially typographical errors.

If you have to give a duplicate resume, make sure that the copier makes a good reproduction of the original. Otherwise, send two originals.

Most job applicants use a scanner to have their picture printed on the upper right hand of the page. Most companies, however, prefer to receive a simple, recent 2"x2" color passport sized picture

Organize your resume

Organize your resume well. Group together relevant information, particularly to highlight your competencies, skills or experiences. If you are writing a work history resume, start with the most recent job. Show your educational background by starting with the most recent school attended.

Do not clutter your resume with unnecessary information--color of your eyes or hair, religion, hobbies, etc.

The key point to remember is to help the reader of your resume find a fit between you and the job. Help him match your competencies with the requirements of the job.

Aside from citing position titles, write one-sentence statements about the job responsibilities. Be brief, use action verbs and avoid first person pronouns. You can write after your position title, for example HR supervisor, the following:

"Responsible for recruitment, testing, interviews and short listing applicants."

You don't have to elaborate on the functions in case of commonly understood positions. A better way to show that you have the relevant experience or competence is to enumerate major achievements.

Indicate the inclusive dates when you had the experience. Do not show gaps in your chronology; otherwise explain the gaps during the interview. Play up the good parts of your career and those that are relevant to the job you are applying form. Downplay or obscure the gray areas, if any.

(To be continued next week)

Janet dela Cruz
234 Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City
Residence phone 923-4567

Job Objective

Experienced guidance counselor seeks the position of Director of Counseling Services in a large school

Abilities

- Certified school guidance counselor
- Specialized training in treatment of substance abuse
- Experienced group counseling leader
- Extensive work with private sector community work-study arrangements
- Working knowledge of computer databases

Achievements

- 90 percent of counselees admitted to college
- founded "Your Drug Hotline" with 2,000 callers weekly
- awarded Mother of the Year in 1997 for reducing drug-dependents among the youth in Barangay Commonwealth
- does consulting with DECS on career planning software for students

Experience

June 1992 – present — Guidance Counselor, Miriam College, Quezon City
Oct. 1989 – June 1992 — Counselor, Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City
June 1985 – Sept. 1989 — History teacher, Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City

Education

Master of Education
Guidance and Counseling
University of Sto. Tomas, 1985

Bachelor of Science in Education
Social Studies and History
University of Sto. Tomas, 1993

Focused resume sample

Graduates, join the party!

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

WE welcome all new graduates to the real world of work.

We particularly welcome your unbounded enthusiasm, your idealism, your refreshing ideas, your curiosity, your style, your eagerness and daring, your technological savvy, your willingness to embrace and adjust to new ideas easily, your adventurism, your language, your music, your fears and anxieties, your deep dark secrets, your dreams and schemes, your innocence, your zest for life, your hopes and aspirations, your uniqueness, your youth, your natural you. We need you as much as you need us.

In the workplace, we need you to adhere to certain basics such as dress code, deadlines, punctuality, keeping promises, and basic office etiquette (as in no loud music and conversations, limiting contact with the outside world to business associates, and others on a case to case basis).

As you join the many people at work, you will surely encounter strong culture shock. Hang on to yourself and don't get swallowed by the "establishment" so soon. Be yourself for as long as you can. Remain I-Loc as much as you can. Fight for your freedom and happiness (refer to Recipes, March 7 and 14, 2001 issues).

San Beda visit

Starting with San Beda College today, your friends here at the PDI People at Work (PaW) Section are going on a campus tour to spread the word of career planning. It is very important for those wanting to work to plan their career very carefully even before they start looking for a job. A job is only a step towards building a career. A job should not be your be-all and end-all to the exclusion of your other needs and expectations from life.

We will not be able to reach many schools, therefore, may I share with you here my part in this PaW Career Symposium. My topic is about preparing oneself for a career—A Self-Assessment. This will derail us one more week from our next Workshop on Time and Stress Management but our new graduates deserve our full attention. This is also for you who are in mid-career or in a job transition or at the verge of a second career.

You are now ready with your resume or bio-data or curriculum vitae. May I invite you to pause one more time before you make hundreds of copies for distribution to the top 1,000 corporations and also to headhunters. Let's do this little self-examination to help you make career decisions that will bring you closer to your Personal Vision and Mission.

Self-examination

First, please take time to read and reread the book "Hope for the Flowers" by Trina Paulus to provide you with immunity from being sucked into a world of money, power and materialism when you join the rat race. Realize that it is your decision and nobody else to metamorphose from a creepy crawly earth-bound caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly, free and happy.

Second, you may invest in this very important book called "What Color Is Your Parachute?" by Richard Nelson Bolles. The 2001 Edition is now available. It gives an easy to follow, step by step process and exercises for determining the career best suited for your talents and interests, fully illustrated with beautiful graphics, charts and drawings. One very practical exercise is called "The Party."

Mr. Bolles describes the exercise thus. "The 'The Party' figure in this page represents an aerial view of a room in which a two-day (!) party is taking place. At this party, people with similar or same interests have (for some reason) all gathered in the same corner of the room."

Mirror theory

Please follow these procedures to determine the kind of people with whom you feel comfortable and happy for the longest time. Mr. Bolles believes that people surrounding you at work to one degree or another form part of your work environment that is important to your success. He says that once you have described the people you would most like to be surrounded by, in many cases, you have also described yourself. As in the saying, birds of the same feather flock together. You often see yourself best by looking into the faces of those close to you. Mr. Bolles calls this "The Mirror Theory."

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Mr. Bolles suggests that "If your 'Code' turns out to be IAS, for example, therefore, you might write: 'I would like a career or job best if I were surrounded by people who are very curious, and like to analyze or investigate things (I), who are also very innovative (A), and who are bent on trying to help or serve other people (S).'"

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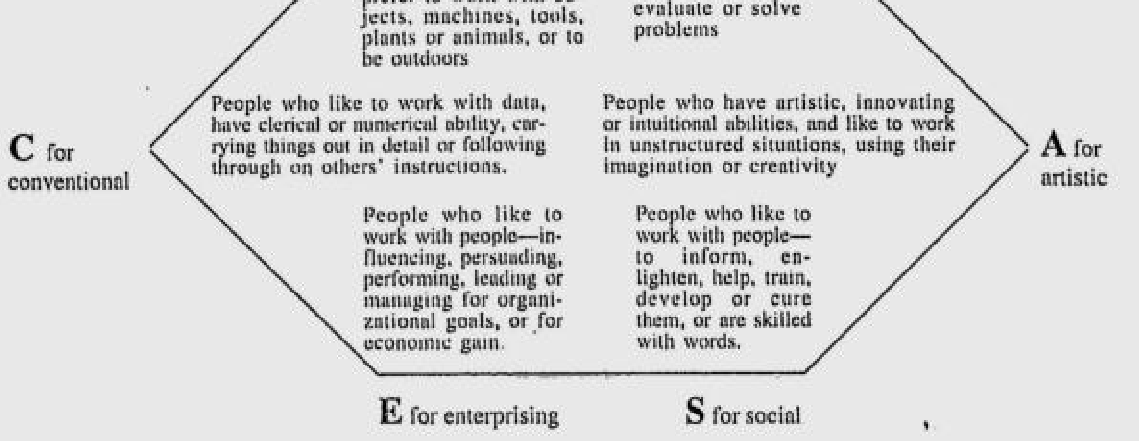

People who have athletic or mechanical ability, prefer to work with objects, machines, tools, plants or animals, or to be outdoors

People who like to observe, learn, investigate, analyze, evaluate or solve problems

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People who like to work with people—to inform, enlighten, help, train, develop or cure them, or are skilled with words.

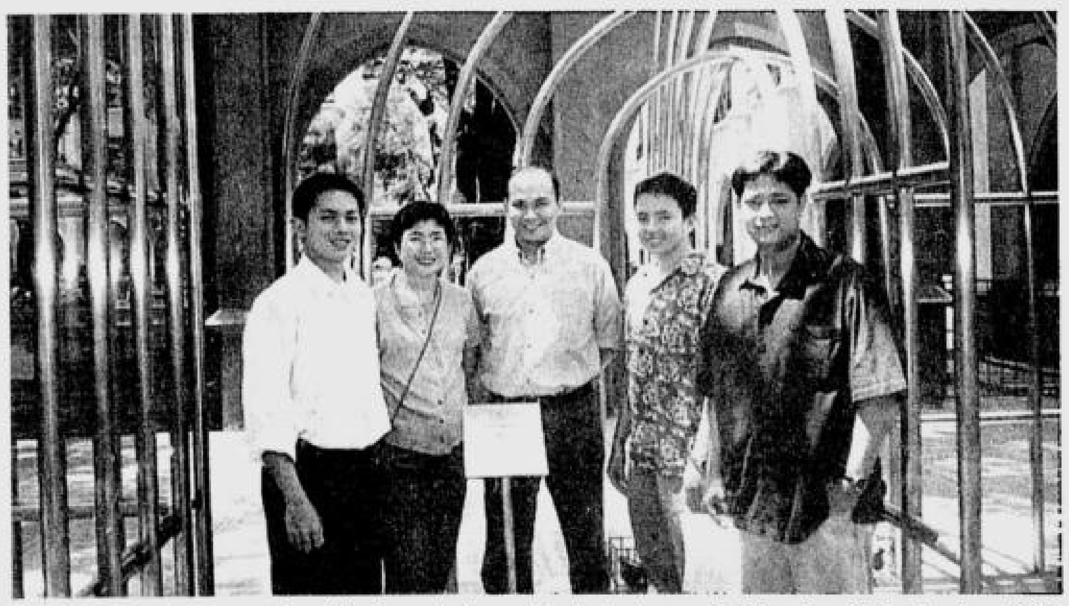
Wanted: good companies to work for

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

(Job ads for qualified candidates are the usual thing. However, this graduation season, People at Work turns the table around to give three graduating students of San Beda College, who topped the college's Career Testing Program, the opportunity to place a want ad for companies that are great to work for. -Ed)

DINO, 20, just graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics with Computer Application. Arji, going on 21, is a BS Accountancy graduate while Mark happily beams at the prospects of finally receiving his diploma for AB Philosophy and Human Resource Development. They are now scouting around for good employers and the right jobs.

PaW and San Beda guidance counselor, Ricky Garcia had an engaging chat with them about job preparation, job hunting and life plans. All three declared that they will definitely hire themselves because it is in work that they could express themselves, explore their potentials and become what they want to be. Boastful? Not exactly, considering that these three were curious, committed, hardworking and consistent honor students throughout their student life.



ALL smiles for the real world. From left are Mark Arabaca, PaW writer Moje Aquino, SBC Guidance Counselor Ricky Garcia, Dino Ordoñez and Arji Obmerga

Wanted: Employers

- Must be dynamic and growth-oriented
- With 3 to 10 years actual business experience
- Peopled with high-caliber professionals
- Wired and technologically savvy
- Global, networked but unique
- Open 24 hours a day to accommodate burst of ideas
- Preferably with travel and continuous learning programs
- With pleasing and socially conscious corporate image

Qualified companies may call Dino Tante R. Ordoñez, Arji P. Obmerga and Mark Reginold C. Arabaca through the San Beda Guidance Office or send their messages to People at Work, PDI or email to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Mark Reginold C. Arabaca

Mark showed that he is a dependable leader. He was twice the president of the Bedan Advocacy and Consciousness Enhancement Society and the sports editor of the official school publication, The Bedan. He says that working is fun when you love what you are doing. Mark affirms that he is a people-oriented person. He enjoys interacting with people, learning from them and helping them to learn. Mark says proudly, "Loyalty is not one of my problems. You can ask my first and only girlfriend about that. But flexibility, yes. It is that which helped me fulfill the academic and extracurricular demands of school life, my personal and spiritual endeavors and my social and relational commitments."

Dino Tante R. Ordoñez

Dino has always been enamored with economics. He says that he particularly likes developmental economics where they analyze weak country economies and ways to strengthen them as nations. He is also keen on environmental economics, which is about meeting the needs of future generations while having enough for the present. Do I see Dino in the Senate or Malacañang sometime in the future? Dino says "I am very much willing to work. I realize that in the real world, experience is the thing that counts most. I wouldn't want to miss a thing. I believe I will succeed at working because I am committed in everything I was assigned to do. As the eldest son, I've also been very responsible at home. Leadership is one of the skills that San Beda has deliberately taught us in various ways."

Arji P. Obmerga

Arji must have the requisite intellectual, emotional and interpersonal abilities that got him the recognition of his peers in San Beda and made him president of the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants-San Beda. He says he is hardworking but he always finds time to balance his life. Aside from being an effective leader, he has the ability to handle responsibilities and to finish every job on time. Arji is a loyal Bedan from prep school to college where he was a Metrobank Foundation scholar. Arji says, "I always try to be flexible in my school work, both academic and co-curricular. Whenever there are projects, though, I still believe that synergy is the best, that is, the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Through the cooperation of every member in a team, goals will surely be reached in the most creative way. More than working alone, I would always empower my members to exert efforts and share whatever talents they have. This philosophy has guided me and taught me not only to work with others but also to work for others."

Idealism

Idealism is very evident in these three gentlemen. Dino, apart from wanting to work to support his younger brothers in their schooling, also wants to make a contribution to society as an economist. Mark wants to live his life as a lawyer, professor and businessman. "Being a lawyer will give me a chance to help bring the essentials of justice to my fellow men especially the less fortunate. Being a professor could get me connected with the dynamism of the youth and share with them the wisdom I would have learned in life. And lastly, being a businessman could hopefully answer for my financial concerns in the future."

Arji wants a simple life where he could raise and provide for the needs and comfort of his future family. To be able to do this, he intends to work as an auditor and also as a college professor. Eventually, with enough capital and contacts, he wants to become his own boss in a food-chain business. To do this, he plans to pursue further studies in the areas of computer programming and law to become a leading IT executive or a lawyer-CPA. Arji quips, "Five to 10 years from now, I would have my own car, own house, living a stable and fully independent life. Then I will be ready to share my life with a wife and children." In preparing for a job, Arji keeps mentally and physically fit by playing basketball, billiards and network games. He is raring to conquer the world of work. Sooner than soon.

Vision, mission

Dino wants to devote his time exclusively for work in the next three to five years. "I would like to help my company achieve its mission and vision. What I learned in my economics, management and computer application classes will surely come in handy at work. Then, I would like to get refreshed academically, go abroad and get my masters degree."

Mark asserts that since he was in his sophomore years, he has been involved in many extra-curricular activities and, so far, he has been physically and mentally capable of doing all tasks assigned to him. "Five years from now, I want to be a practicing lawyer who has a rising reputation for his integrity and competence. Five years afterwards, I would like to teach and be able to contribute to the growth of individuals in my class. I will get married anytime after the first five years and live happily ever after."

Given such distinguished qualifications, idealism and burning ambitions, Dino, Arji and Mark will surely become positive contributors to the growth and profits of any company they will choose to work with. Employers, please note that these three are for immediate hiring. May the best-qualified company get them.

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13.3"TFT LCD	14.1"TFT LCD	10/100Mbps Ethernet
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Promo runs from March 19 to 31, 2001 only

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

Write power resumés that sell your good image

By Ernie O. Cecilia

THE RESUMÉ serves as a "business card" that brings the job applicant to the attention of the recruitment officer. The resumé also provides the job applicant the proverbial foot-in-the-door that can later lead to an interview and a good start to a great career.

When there are hundreds, maybe thousands, of job applicants for the position you are interested in, how can you get your prospective employer interested in you? How can you ensure that your resumé will not end up in the trashcan or in the inactive or dead file? How do you write a good resume? What are the rules, if any?

The good news is that the rules for writing a good resume are dictated by common sense. The bad news is that common sense is not so common.

David R. Eyler, in his book "Resumés that mean business," writes, "The preparation of a compelling resume is a practical art—a delicate balance of things said and left unsaid, details provided and information meaningfully summarized, the efficient use of space and the power of pleasing graphic effect—or the deliberate lack of it in electronic resumés."

Remember always that your prospective employer must first get interested in you through your resume. He does not have the time nor the inclination to talk to all of the applicants. Thus, well-prepared resumés are powerful.

Types of resumés

There are three types of commonly used resumes. They are:

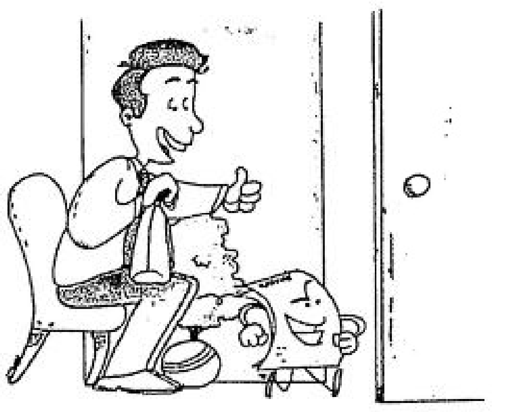


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

1. Work history or the chronological resume

This lists down jobs and personal data in the order that they occurred. This is best used by job applicants who have a string of successful stints in various jobs or companies.

2. Focused or targeted resume

This presents achievements and capabilities in a manner that caters to a particular kind of job or career. This usually facilitates comparison between what the company requires and what the job applicant has to offer.

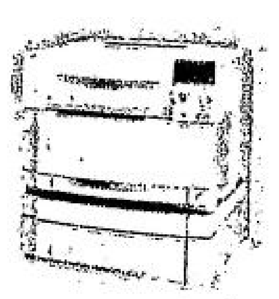
3. Competency cluster or the functional resumé

This groups together skills and competencies under headings that constitute important functions in a particular kind of job. This also helps ensure easier comparison between the competencies required by the job and those possessed by the job applicant.

Heading

Regardless of the type of resume you wish to prepare, here are some tips on how to write a

WRITE/B10



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Jules Y. Alcantara
A.B. Film and Audio Visual Communications

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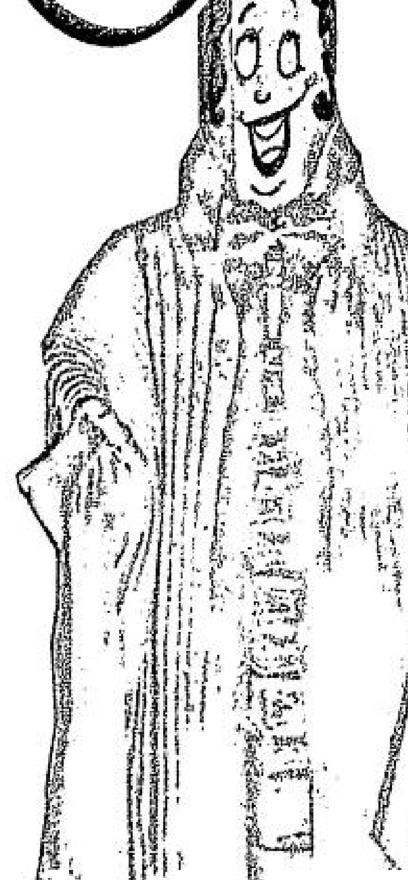

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3. To select a Ready Message, press 2.
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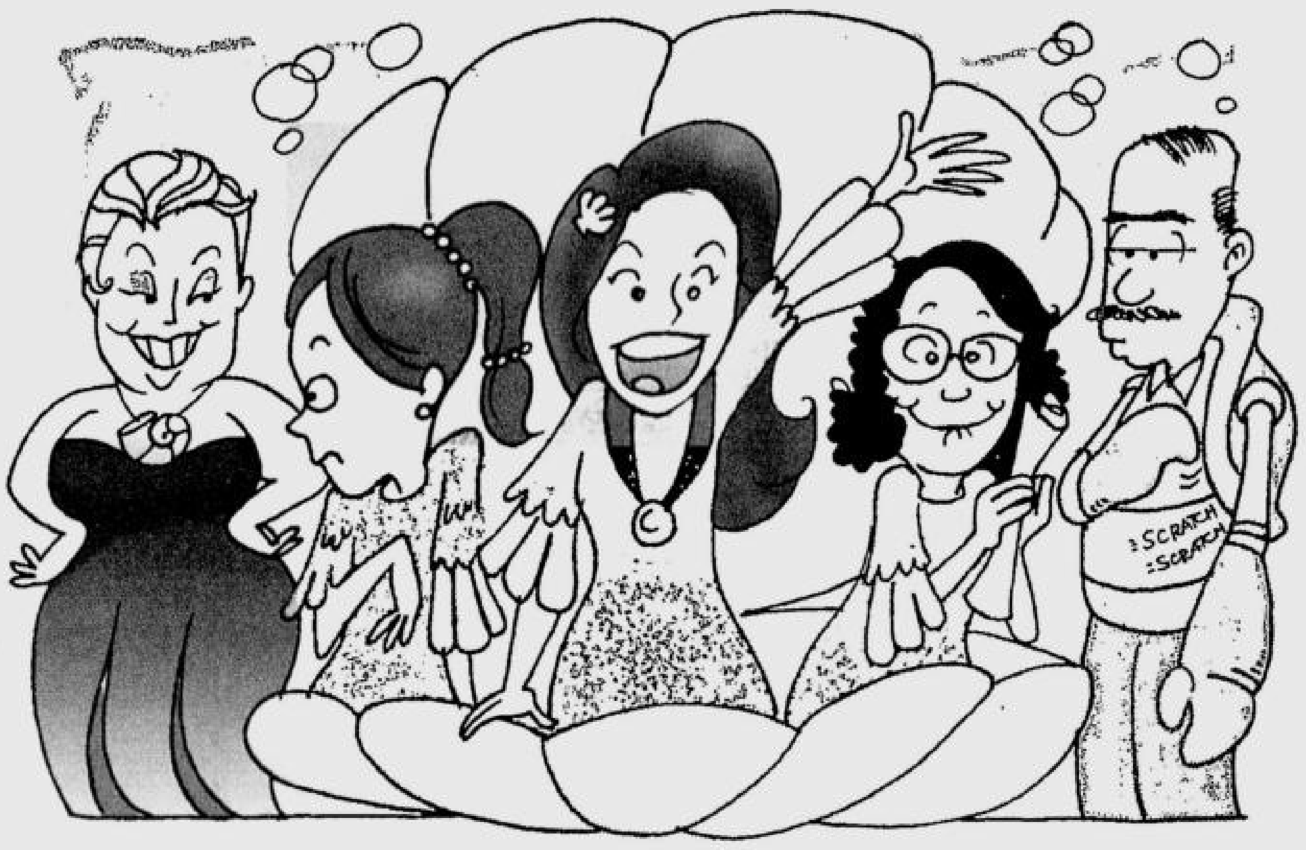
   = Press 3 for "Have a good day"
   = Press 4 for "I love you"
   = Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
5. After selecting your ready message, the voice prompt will ask you to enter the sender's name or send the message right away.
6. After which, the voice prompt will confirm whether or not the message has been sent successfully.

Cartoon fun at graduation

By Walter Ang

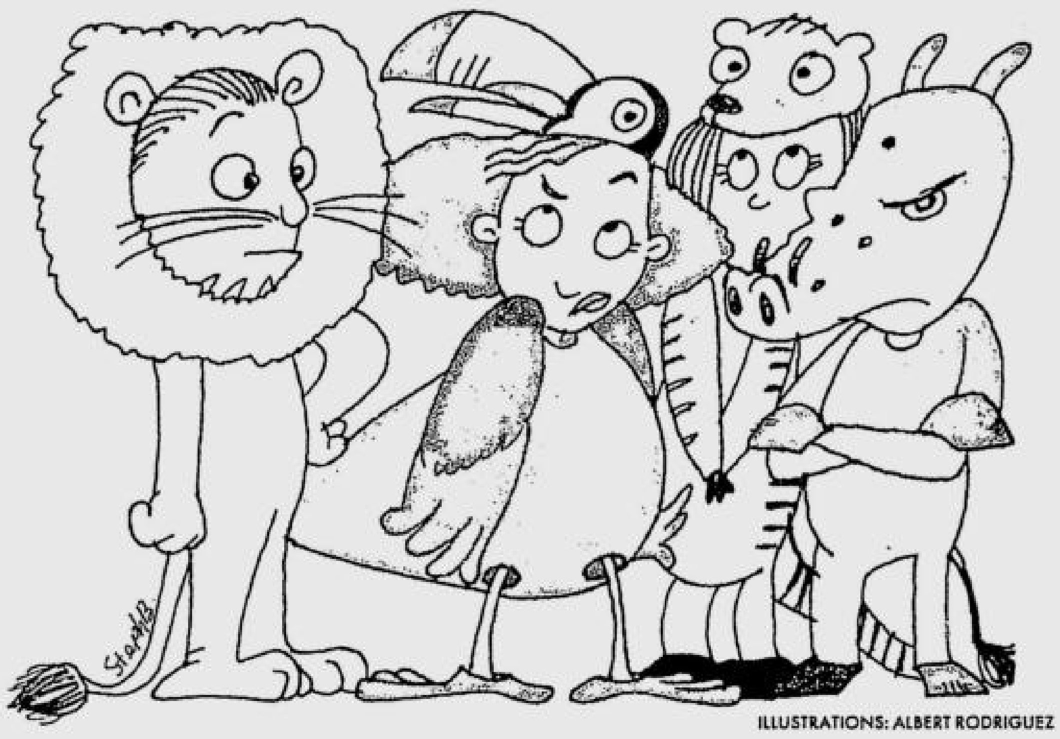


WE all know how boring graduation rites can be. We've all had to endure our own or forced to attend a sibling's or friend's equally dull ceremony. Hot and humid weather. The speeches that drone on. Itchy outfits. Parents (God bless them) who take your picture every 10 steps. Your new shoes which you bought only yesterday, squeezing the life out of your feet.

No need to fret though. The positive thing to do these days is to be proactive instead of reactive. What we can do to spice up these staid, boring rites is to give them a twist. If birthdays and weddings can have different themes and motifs, why can't graduation rites?

Graduation is a great time to sit back and remember the past—from your nursery days when you wore pigtails and cried for mommy to your wild, tumultuous high school life. All the trends that were once oh-so-cool, all the outdoor games you used to play and everything else in between like friends and good memories that made school bearable.

Among the things that's great to reminisce are the cartoons you used to watch. You can even use cartoons as a motif in graduation rites. Almost everyone has a favorite Disney movie, right? (Or one that they love to hate, but that's another story.) Disney cartoons dish out lessons for the graduates. Stay true to yourself amid adversity and you're sure to make it. Or try to create some fantastic and fun themes using Disney cartoon movies. Here are a few suggestions:



ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

"The Little Mermaid." The faculty will be dressed in crustacean costumes while students will don shimmery togas in multicolored sequins, creating the look of fish scales. A large shell in the middle of the stage will open to reveal the top five students with some backup dancers in shrimp or lobster (remember Sebastian?) costumes.

If you could hold your rites at a resort, students could dive straight into the pool right after receiving their diplomas (stored inside sturdy zip-lock plastic bags). Since the weather's already turning hotter and hotter these days, "The Little Mermaid" theme could work well if you'd add sprinklers and foam machines to cool everyone down. Guests could have complimentary welcome drinks upon their arrival.

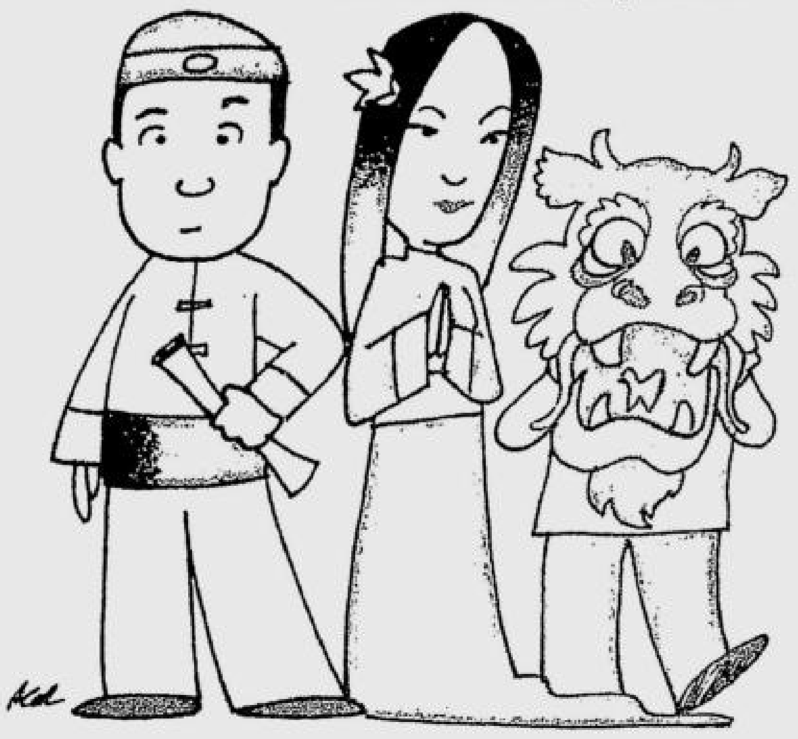
"The Lion King." One animal kingdom can be assigned to each class who must wear costumes accordingly. The mammals won't have too many problems, but the one who'll get the protozoan will definitely have more fun trying to invent creative outfits. After all, school's like a jungle at times. There's always that one person in class who smells like, or worse than, an animal. And there's always one teacher who's called an animal behind his or her back.

Instead of the traditional "Wedding March" from the opera "Aida," students will march to the tune of Elton John's "Circle of Life." And wouldn't it be fabulous if the teachers we all hate had to wear monster costumes? Deck the stage with potted palm trees and crepe paper vines. Trained monkeys can give out the diplomas. But don't you think a trained elephant passing out diplomas with his trunk would be more exciting?

"Mulan." This is a great way for Pinoys to explore a different culture. On the same note, this theme can work for Tsinoy schools quite well. Color of the day will definitely be festive—scarlet red. You can add splashes of gold for accent. Instead of the traditional togas or white dresses for girls and barongs for the guys, cheongsams and sandals will be the required attire.

The stage will be decorated with large obi lanterns and bolts of regal cloth. The school can hire those "human" dragons ubiquitous during the Chinese New Year. After the last student gets his or her diploma, what else will be more fitting than showcasing a colorful kaleidoscope of fireworks? 2bU! congratulates this year's graduates!

E-mail comments to waltzang@mail.com



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Things to do after you receive your hard-earned diploma

Here's your marching order after donning your toga and making the graduation march

BY JULES ALCANTARA

SCHOOL'S out. For good.

Suddenly, vacation has started. Except that your vacation from the august halls of the academe is not just for two months but for the rest of your life. No more staying up late to study and cram for tests and examinations. No more papers and book reports and theses that you have to labor over. No more deadlines! No more forcing yourself out of the comforts of your bed early in the morning. No more long lines and irate registrar's personnel to contend with. No more grouchy teachers and flaky classmates to deal with. No more suspicious-looking cafeteria food that you have no choice but to swallow with your eyes closed and nose pinched.

All of a sudden, you have nothing to do.

Are you kidding?! There are tons of things you can do! In fact, there are many things you must do. Why do you think commencement speakers always use the phrase "go forth" in their long and winding speeches? (My friend told me once that when he heard the words "go forth," he got the distinct impression that his school was dying to get rid of him. "What's wrong with being subtle?" he asked. "It's my last official day in school! Aren't they going to miss me?") You're supposed to go and conquer the world. Those sage words are uttered to make sure that you make a name for yourself and put to good use what you supposedly learned from school. Or at least make sure you don't become a certified member of the "Bum Squad."

But before you go and invent a cure for the common cold, do not forget to do these things.

Sleep. Indulge yourself and get those precious zzzzzzz's to make up for all those times that you had to sleep late and wake up very early. Finally, getting more than eight hours of sleep is no longer a sin.

Take a vacation. Take a respite from the chaos of the city because before you know it, you will be entering the corporate jungle very soon.

Make a time capsule or a scrapbook of all your high school and college memories. Photographs of you and your *barkada* (in your outdated bangs, thick eyebrows and ewwww-inducing outfits) are guaranteed to send you off to gales of laughter and should, at the very least, relieve you of work-related stress.

Write a "thank-you" letter to all your teachers and mentors (or coaches). They have all become an integral part of your formation, even those who screamed at you when you couldn't meet the deadline or answer those Calculus questions. You even have to be grateful to those who flunked you. Failure, as they say, forms character. I, for one, will always be grateful to my PE teacher who gave me a passing grade in Group Sports (Basketball) even though up to this very day, I can't make the ball reach the ring. ("Sir, being a spectator is in itself a sport! I should get a passing grade because I know a lot of basketball trivia *naman, eh!*")

Party hard. Check out Pam's article. Even if you don't follow any of her suggestions, at least you know her article's not a waste of time reading. Don't forget that partying hard means that you should have a designated driver among your group. Or bring a driver.

Follow up on your yearbook. Try to get them as soon as possible so that you can ask you batchmates to sign and write down their contact numbers and email addresses. Don't forget to make *kulit* about this because there are some people I know who up to this very day, still have not gotten their yearbooks. And it has been half a decade since they graduated.

Do your resumé. Allot some time to do your resumé. Apart from your job interview, the resumé could spell a lot of difference in your job-hunting.

Gather all the school books you have collected over the years. Donate them to you local library or keep them in good shape. Your younger siblings might be able to use them as reference in the future.

Change or clean the contents of your hard disk. If you are the sentimental type, and still want to hold on that paper you submitted in Psychology (because you did lose sleep and shed buckets of blood and tears for that paper on sexual dysfunction), then go ahead and make a printout. Oh, and by the way, get rid of those notebooks and papers. Tons of paper is a definite fire hazard. Again, if you can't let go of those notebooks and those test papers, at least try to trim down their number.

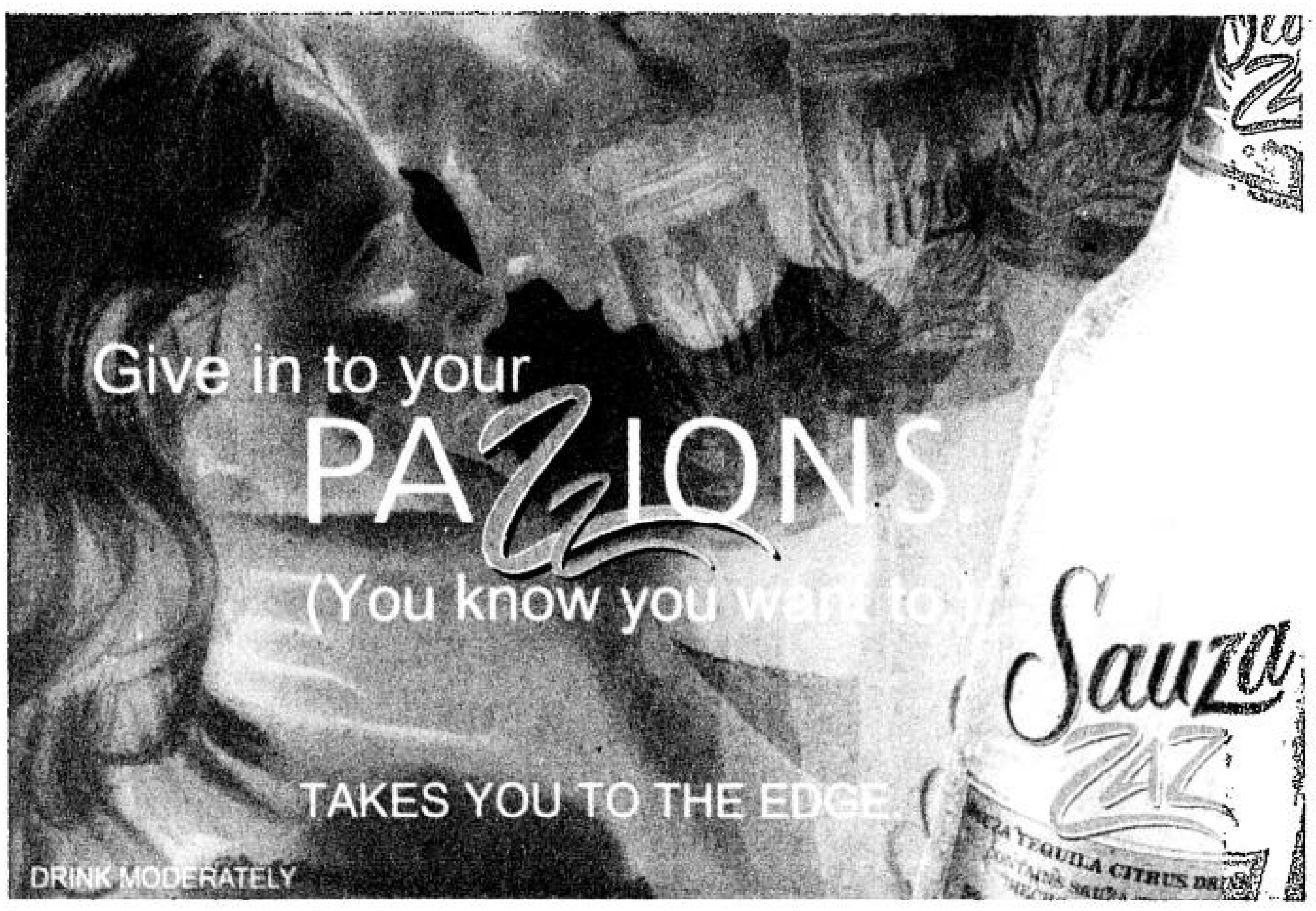
Schools uniforms. There are two schools of thought regarding these pieces of clothing. The first school of thought highly suggests that you rip them apart to your heart's content. Consider the act a ritual of cleansing. Vent out all the frustrations you have kept bottled through the years over that ridiculous-looking blouse and skirt. The other school of thought suggests that you should at least keep a pair for posterity's sake. Then years from now you can marvel at how thin you were during your school days. If anything, at least you'll have living proof to your children that you were indeed 30 pounds thinner during college. No more, "Yah, right mom! And I'm the queen of England!" or any similar retort from your kids.

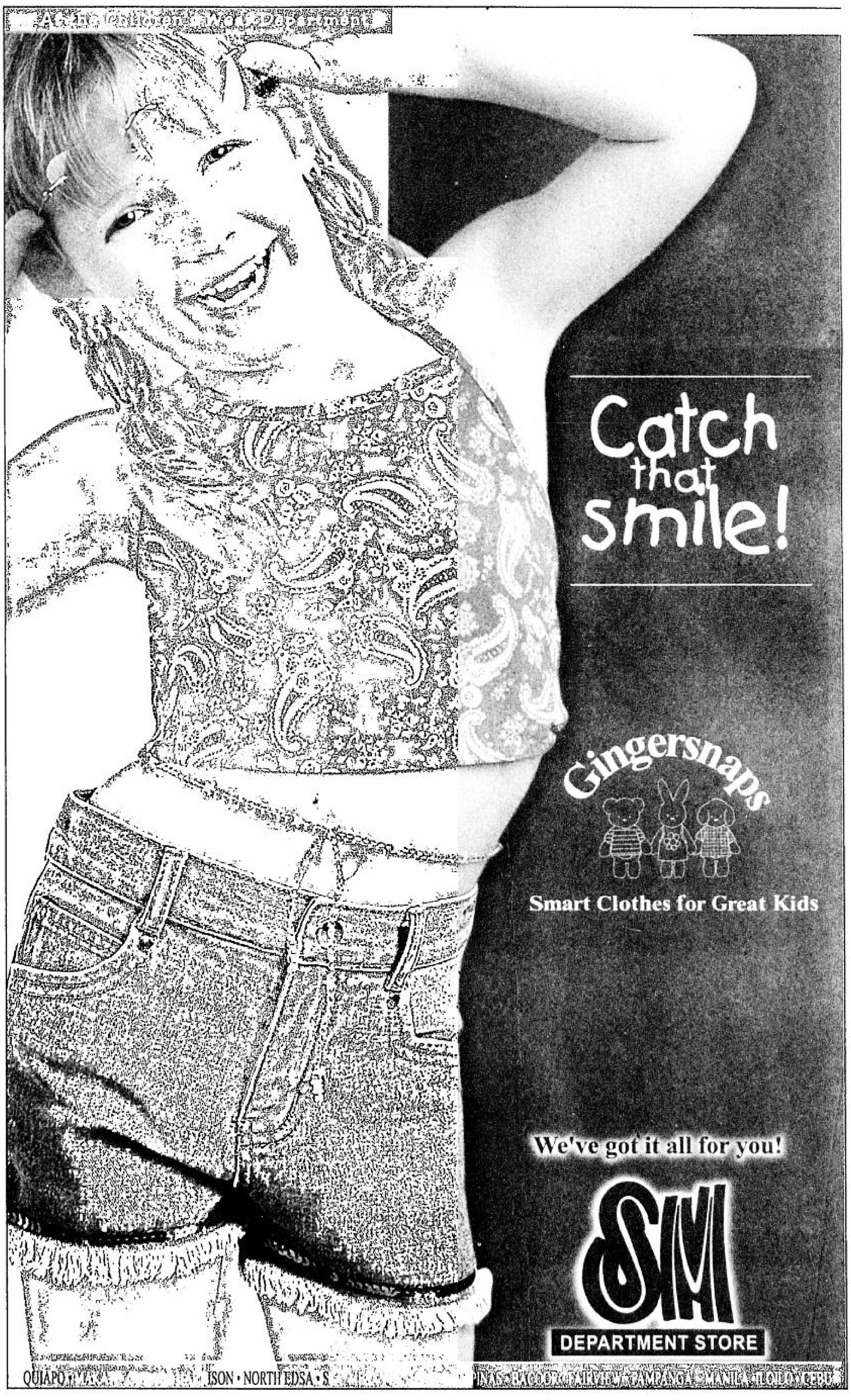
Check out your educational insurance plan. Some insurance companies give monetary compensation or reimbursements if you finish on time. Who knows? You might be able to use the money to start a business or travel to Europe or for shopping! Or you could opt to not look for a job first, rest for a year and subsist on that money.

Do not get married yet. You know how parents always say that you can get married "*kahit* the day after your graduation, *basta grumaduate ka muna!*" Do not go straight from accepting your diploma to signing your name in a marriage contract. Find a job and consider furthering your career first! Besides, you'll meet a lot of "fish" when you enter the work force. You wouldn't want to miss out on that, right?

Do everything that your school did not allow you to do. Hmmm, I'll let you decide on that.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com.

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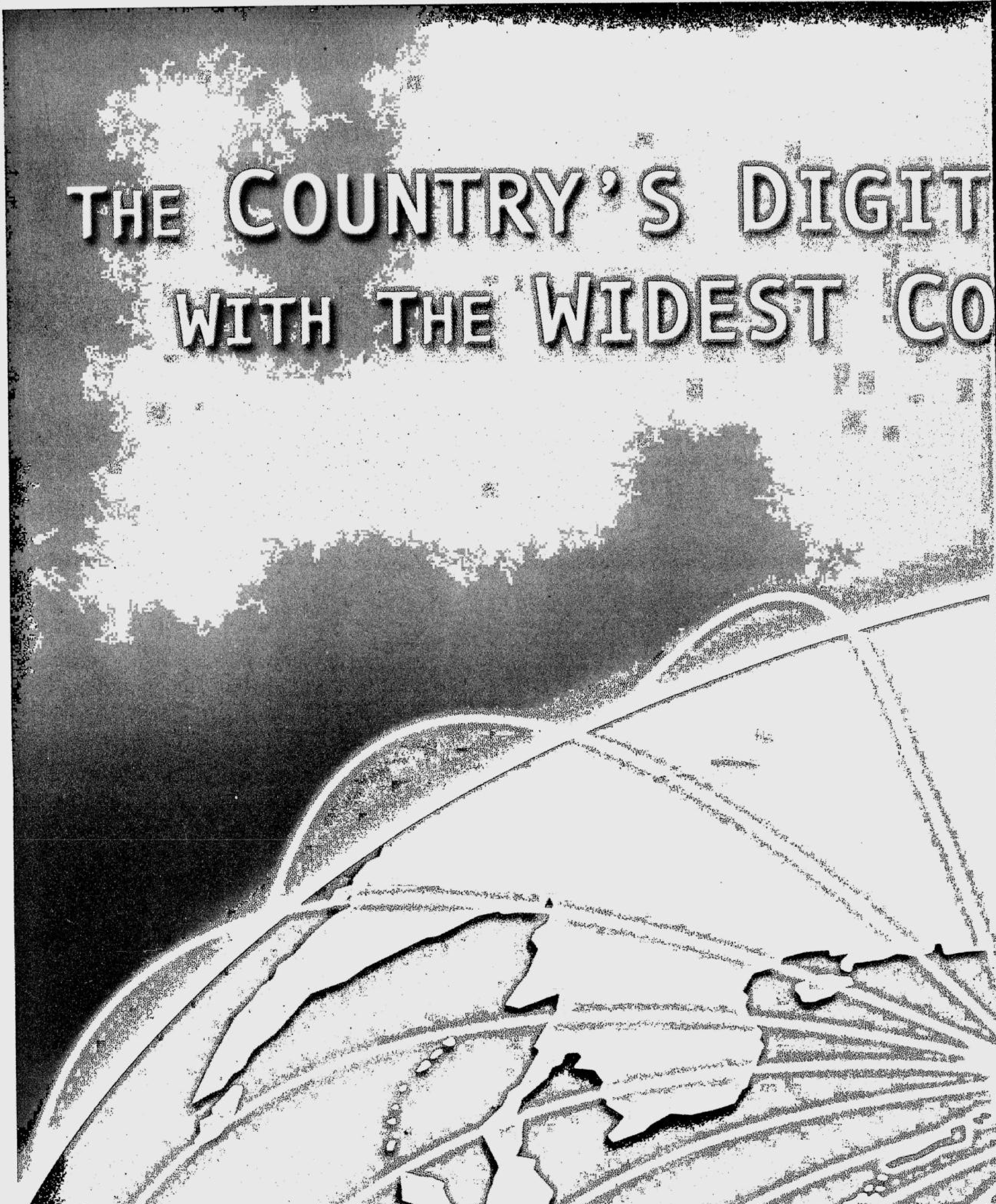
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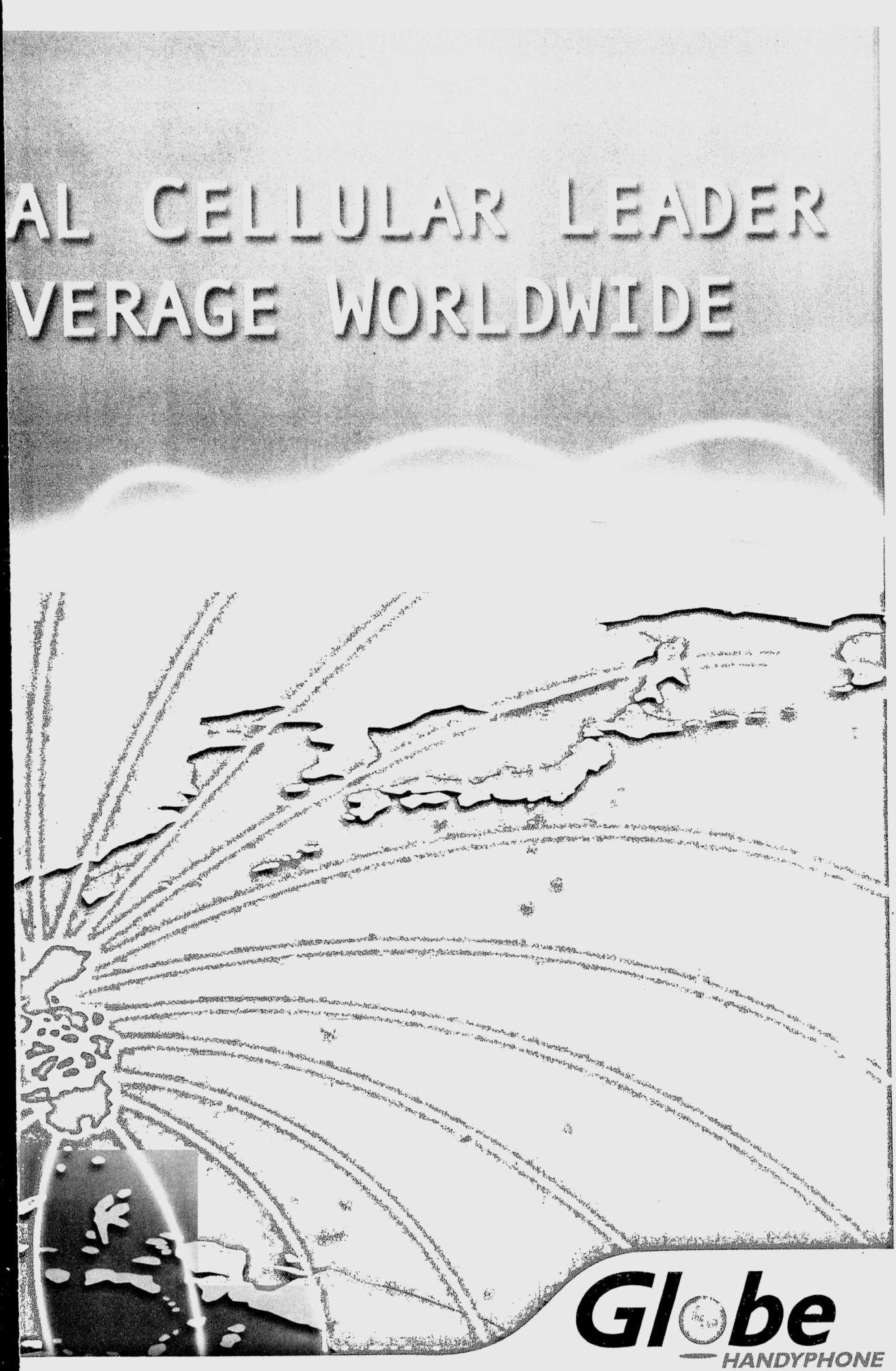
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GLAM GODDESS. Shawl-type toga by Ignacio Loyola

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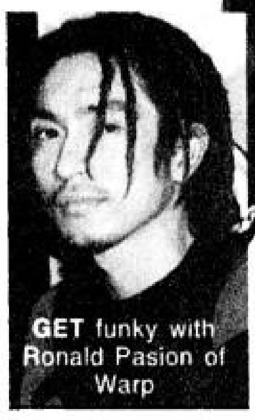
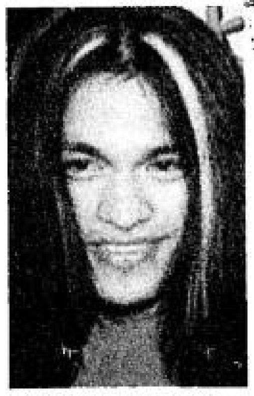
ZEN-SATIONAL SPIRITUALITY. His and hers commencement outfits by Avel Bacudio

STAR-STUDDED graduation gear complete with torn shirt and studded floor-length jacket and jeans



GET funky with Ronald Pasion of Warp

PHOTOS BY: ERNIE SARMIENTO



MULTIAWARDED young Filipino designer Ignacio Loyola

Get toga-trendy this graduation season

When you march to the podium to claim your diploma, make sure you graduate in style

OKAY, let's pretend your school principal assigns you a project to choose your own toga for your graduation. Indeed, a toga is not something to be taken lightly. The graduation outfit should be seen as a celebration of your individuality.

Taking advice from a reader to feature clothes of different budgets, we here at 2bU! sourced out tantalizing toga options for you, our highly unique and well-rounded graduating student.

This rite of passage should be fun—so have the most enjoyment you can get out of it. The minute you march, hold your head up high, smile and be proud of yourself.

Toga options

For the budget-constrained, one need not look far for that all-important commencement ensemble. The cheapest alternative would be to use a trash bag (less than five bucks), put holes for your head and arms, add a whiff of cologne, and voila! you are ready to march.

I am not kidding nor am I trying to be cute. A friend of mine one used this trash bag trick to get in to—of all places, Studio 54! (don't ask how old she is). Attitude is all that's needed—and if you can carry a trash bag to its fullest extent, you can wear anything!

The other choice is to borrow a nun's dress, or borrow from your school's drama department, and just spruce it up with your own creativity. Still, that costs nothing but a little charm on your shoulder.

If you are the "do-it-on-my-own" type, you can go to your friendly neighborhood tailor and add little trimmings, like luscious lace or pretty patchwork. You can get the lace from your old curtains or from your mom's nighties, the patchwork from old denim and furniture fabrics. Ruffles and patchwork are hot this season, too. Think Comme des Garcon innovation.

If you have money to burn and would not want to fuss over your toga, leave it to the funky professionals—young designers who won't make you look like some mass-produced product of the Addam's family school of dressing.

Design mavericks Ronald Pasion of Warp, Avel Bacudio and award-winning young designer Ignacio Loyola concoct the winning graduation look for you, from funky studs to silky pleats, you will surely make yourself and your parents proud as you go through this rite of passage.

If all else fails, you can just use what your school or university will provide for you. Chances are, they have a standard uniform for you.

The bottom line is, no matter what you are wearing, when you go up that podium, think of how different the world has become because of your existence.

Congratulations, and give yourself a good pat on the back, graduates!

Tim Yap

Designer directory

Ronald Pasion of WARP
Apt 2C, RPM Building,
614 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong
Tel. no.: 535-7252;
Mobile: 0917-9292740

Ignacio Loyola
Mobile: 0917-9186187 (By appointment only)

Avel Bacudio
Young Designers Guild of the Philippines (YDG)
Tel. no.: 435-0578 (By appointment only); Fax: 655-2005;
Mobile: 0917-9436876

RESIDENT DJ Elmer Dado weaves his magic.

ROLLER girl on a limb circa '54

DO the grind, baby!

DUH-UH. Boompy Martel and Vina Morales during Halloween

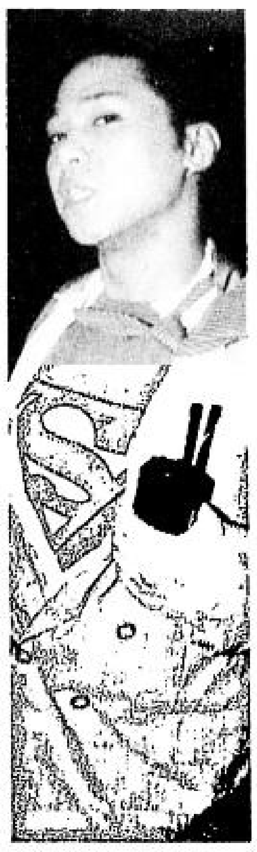
ARTIST. Vernon Perez on a trance

MONK'S DREAM. I'm gonna bomb Mars.

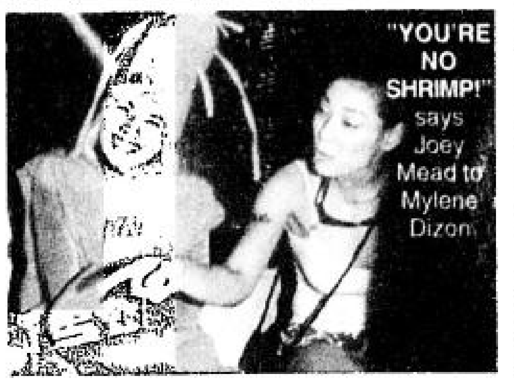
DOROTHY FOUND IN MARS. Carla Guevarra from Oz

PRESENTING...Miss Planet Mars!

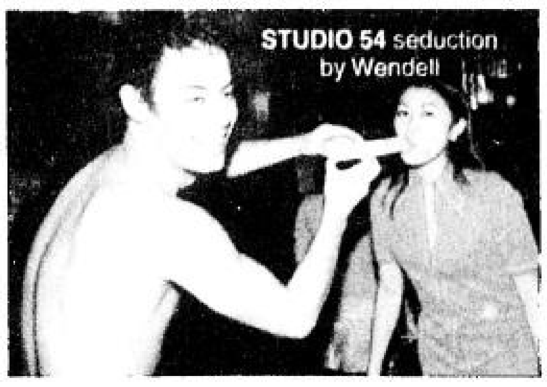
UH, can we close our eyes?



ALVIN and his ambitions



"YOU'RE NO SHRIMP!" says Joey Mead to Mylene Dizon



STUDIO 54 seduction by Wendell

OH, BEHAVE! Carlo Tirona and his Austin act

NOT SHORT. Donnie does the limbo rock.

KAT holding fort despite the storm.

FEMALE bonding, not fighting

Mars attacks one last time

IT was a different kind of graduation for Planet Mars. After 10 years or so of pulsating nightlife grooves, the red hot planet is closing. (*See related story on page E5.*)

The march that night was one of bittersweet celebration, of memories shared in the disco's area from the bar and dance floor. Even the club's parking area was witness to many decadent nights of boozing and schmoozing.

Beyond that, this youth institution served as home to a lot of celebrations, quenching Manila's craving for what a true club should be. Undoubtedly, Planet Mars will go down history as a prime mover in the city's colorful clubscape, encompassing several generations of nocturnalites.

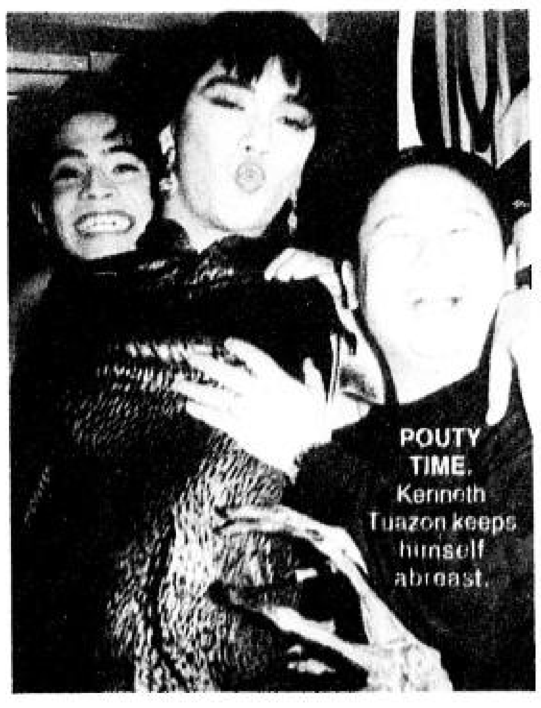
From its music, interiors and "getting past the velvet ropes," down to its concepts for parties, it made Manila clubbing attuned to the rest of the world.

Mars and what it stands for, will surely live on in the hearts of every partyphile that set foot on its hallowed halls.

Tim Yap

Partygoers, whether men or women, are from Mars

SPACE INVADERS. Barbie Almabis, Jay Server and Michele Sison



POUTY TIME. Kenneth Tuazon keeps himself abreast.

MY LOVE DON'T COST A THING. Ronald Pasion and Maegan Aguilar

Teen mag to hold birthday bash

EVERY teen girl's best friend has definitely gotten better! This is why Candy magazine is celebrating its 2nd birthday with a bang! The past year was packed with cool and exciting events like the Candy Campus Tour, the Teen Model Search, the successful launching of Candy's School Diary and the introduction of the first batch of the Council of Cool. Candy magazine was also the official magazine of the Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition and the media partner of Teens Read Too, a literary program for teens. Plus, Candymag.com bagged two webbies in the last Philippine Web Awards for Best News and Zines Website and Best Community Website. To top it all, "2bU!," the teen lifestyle section of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER voted Candy as the Best Magazine for 2000!

Candy magazine thanks its readers and supporters with the biggest birthday bash ever. On March 31, The NBC Tent at the Fort will be transformed into a carnival of the future where Candy readers can enjoy great booths, free food and drinks, cool games and lots of freebies. Best of all, everyone can get free invites to this year's anniversary party in the March issue of Candy magazine!

"We're very excited about being No. 1 in the teen magazine category. We owe our success to our loyal readers and subscribers as well as all the girls who have been with us from the start. This is our way of thanking them for their continued support," says Aurora Mangubat, group publisher of Candy magazine.

Get the chance to meet Cogie Domingo, Baron Geisler, Desiree del Valle and other teen models and celebrities. There will also be live performances from Barbie's Cradle, 3rd Angle and NBK DJ's Jed Dario and Jay Tengco. Fair fever will be at its peak as it features the jail booth, kiss mark booth, handcuff booth and dance revolution booth. Invite-holders get to sample goodies from the sponsors.

Girls will get a chance to see themselves on the Candy cover, bring home gift packs from the Powerpuff girls, and avail of free glam makeovers. Who knows, you might be chosen as the "Candy Girl of the Night." Candy's 2nd anniversary party will also be Candymag.com's Grand EB where partygoers and chatters can meet new friends. The whole Candy gang will be there to join in on the fun.

Visit www.candymag.com

2bU! • To be you!
candy
www.candymag.com
Present
TEEN CHAT SERIES

Schedule this week:

Date	Topic
February 21	Tips for staying in love!
February 23	How to get over a break-up
February 28	The real deal on premarital sex

Log on to www.candymag.com/chat for details
Also sponsored by Universe E-Lifestyle Cafe, KCFM 93.9 and Magic 89.9

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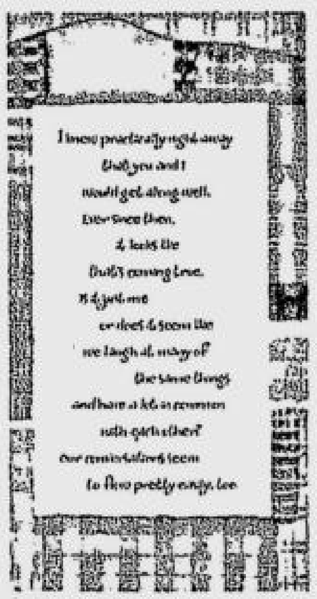
2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you! • To be you!
Lifestyle Teen Section
of the Philippine Daily Inquirer



Inside:
I don't connect quickly with everybody I meet- only real interesting people who make me laugh and feel comfortable. No wonder I think you're pretty cool- you've got all that going for you plus a whole lot more!

The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!

Watch out for it on the Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2bU! section starting March 28!

Have you ever received a **Hallmark Between You and Me** card that changed your life forever? Okay, probably not THAT life altering but something that made you really happy that you just had to shout it from the rooftops or something that touched you so much that you couldn't stop the tears from welling in your eyes. Well, here's your chance! Send us the most memorable Between You & Me card you received (actual card) and tell us why it means so much to you in 200 words or less. One lucky winner will win two cool **Swatch** watches per week! (One for you and one for the person who sent you the card). Mail your entries to Filstar Distributors Corporation 3/F Team Pacific Bldg. 13 Jose Cruz St. Ugong, Pasig City 1604. Please include your name, address & contact number. **2bU!** & **Hallmark** will not be responsible for lost, misdirected or late entries. All unclaimed entries will become the property of Filstar. Winners may claim their prizes at the Filstar office. Contest starts on March 28 and ends on May 16, 2001. Catch Joe D'Mango's Love Notes every Friday (10:00 am) at **WAVE 89.1** as he reads your favorite Between You & Me cards and every Sunday in **Inquirer**'s Lifestyle section.

www.hallmark.com

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0444 Series of 2001.

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3. The premium item will be given on the spot in any of the participating stores where you made your purchase.
4. The promotion period is from March 10 to April 21, 2001.
5. Globe Telecom's decision in concurrence with DTI rules and regulations regarding the "MAGNA CUM NOKIA" promotion will be deemed final and non-negotiable.

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6250	P 18,000	P 16,000	NA
3310	P 6,000	P 4,000	P 7,890
5110	P 3,500	P 1,500	P 5,190

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0309, Series of 2001

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AF-048 Series of 2001

They don't call it 'DIPLOMA MILL' for nothing

By Pam Pastor and Jules Alcantara

IT is the most important and precious piece of paper, more so compared to your birth certificate or your passport. In fact, it is accorded special distinction as it occupies a special spot in the wall of your bedroom or in the family living room.

Acquiring this piece of paper entails a lot of hardship and sacrifice, not just by you, but more importantly by your parents who worked so hard to be able to send you to a good school. It involves days and nights of burning the midnight flame, of endless comprehensive reading, of careful analysis and memorization of facts and information. It involves a lot of money, hard earned and carefully saved for your education. This piece of document symbolizes the knowledge you supposedly learned in the venerable institution that is the academe.

The diploma.

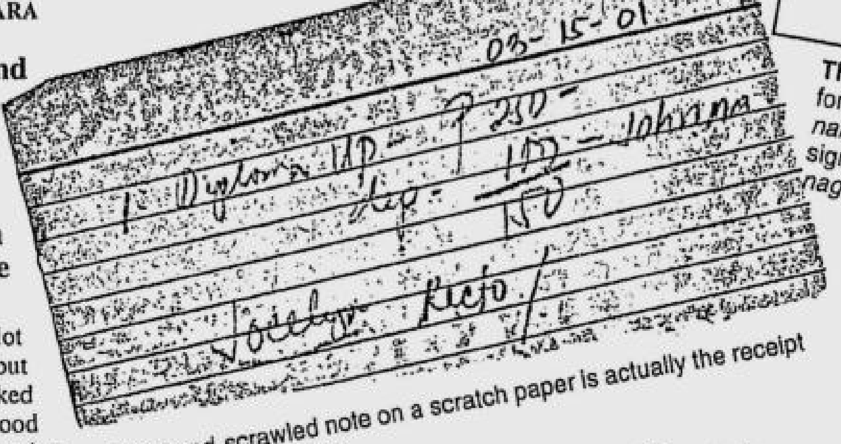
Oh yeah, and FYI, you can buy one.

You can get one for less than a thousand as opposed to spending thousands upon thousands of tuition money or paying your educational insurance premium monthly. No need to take those difficult and mind-boggling college entrance tests and take those grueling board examinations since you can even take a pick of all the top universities in the country. What usually takes 15 years of a good solid education takes only 15 minutes to make in any run of the mill dinky little store on Recto Avenue.

Yes, Recto.

Right in the heart of an avenue named after a patriot who, ironically, was an undergraduate, is every bum's dream come true. Another certified irony—the diploma mill is located in front of a university. Hidden among stalls of invitation printers, cross-stitch supplies and locksmiths are businessmen who sell you your "education." Just one measly piece of paper.

Instant. Everything is instant. Instant photos, instant noodles, instant coffee and now, instant diplomas (no need to add water).



03-15-01

1 Diploma UP P 250 — Johanna

dep. 100

150

Jocelyn Recto

THIS hand-scrawled note on a scratch paper is actually the receipt of one of the diplomas.

One Thursday afternoon, 2bU! decided to hit the streets and see firsthand how the diploma mill works. Armed only with guts and money and all kinds of ready excuses to explain why we need diplomas, we tried several different stalls and came up with surprising results.

We shouldn't have wasted time preparing alibis—these people were so nonchalant about their "product." No sideward glances, as if they had no idea that what they were doing was, at the very least, illegal. It was as if they were just selling candy off the streets.

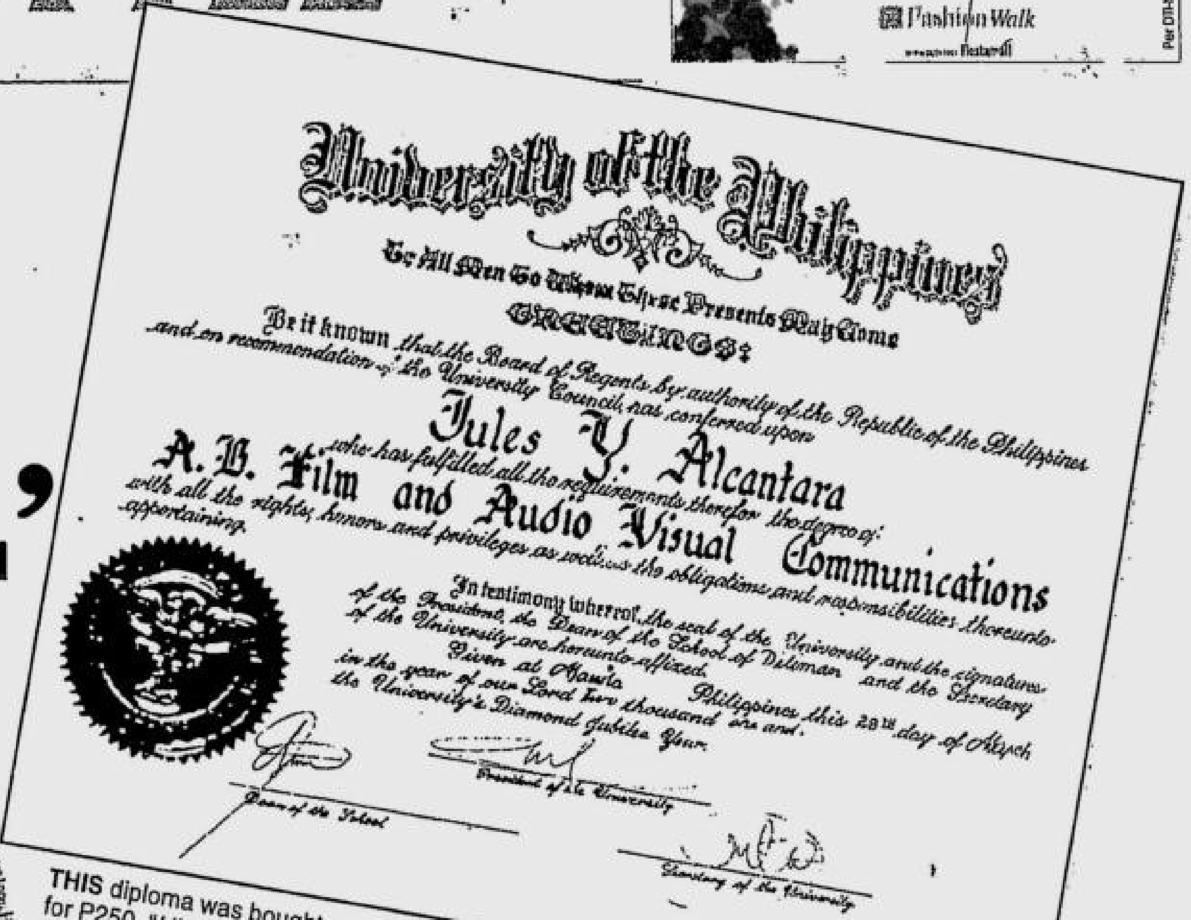
Casual trade

Walk up to the stall and stare at the posted diplomas that have been covered with plastic and we're 100 percent sure the person behind the stall will ask you which school you'd want to "graduate" from. Eyebrows down. Yes, it's that easy.

The next few steps would involve you filling out a form—er, rather, a piece of scratch paper. Just put your name, your chosen alma mater, your course and the year you graduated and 15 minutes (or one day) later—voila!—you're a graduate.

No need to bring mace or pepper spray, these fake diploma peddlers appear harmless. In fact, quite a number of them look like your friendly

THEY/ p.D2



University of the Philippines

To All Men To Whom These Presents May Come

GREETINGS:

Be it known that the Board of Regents by authority of the Republic of the Philippines and on recommendation of the University Council has conferred upon

Jules Y. Alcantara

who has fulfilled all the requirements therefor the degree of

A.B. Film and Audio Visual Communications

with all the rights, honors and privileges as well as the obligations and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

In testimony whereof, the seal of the University and the signatures of the President, the Dean of the School of Diliman and the Secretary of the University are hereunto affixed.

Given at Manila Philippines this 28th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and one and the University's Diamond Jubilee Year.

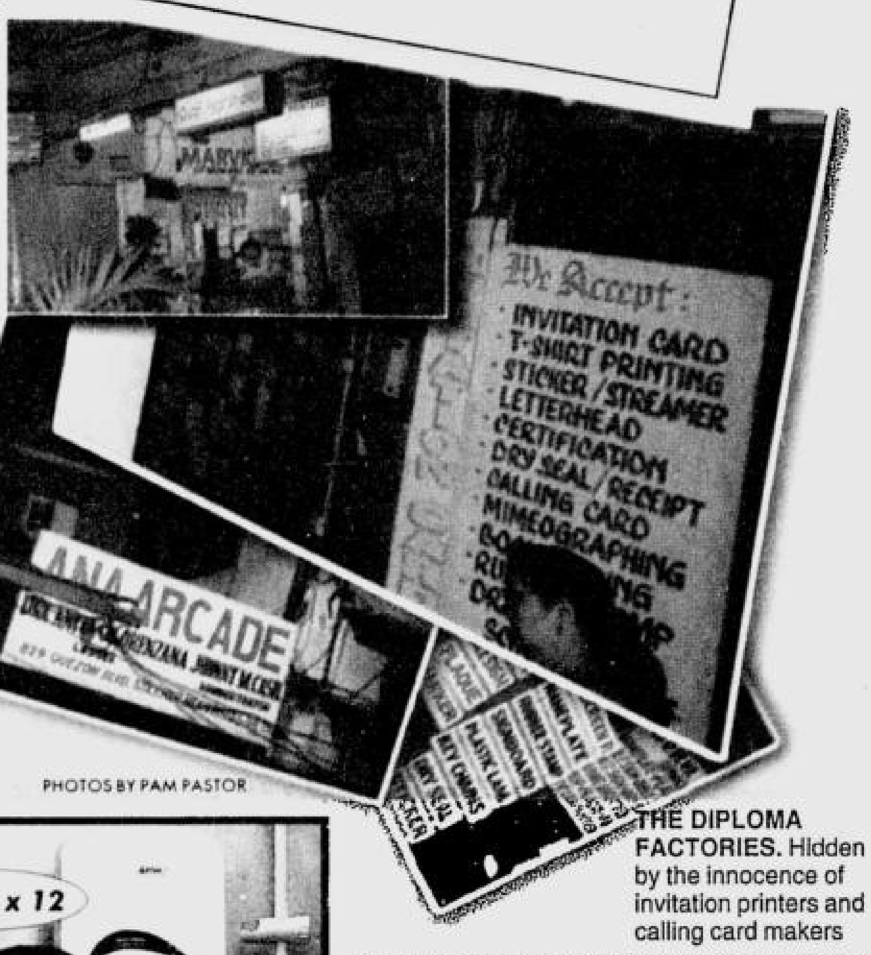
Dean of the School

President of the University

Secretary of the University

THIS diploma was bought for P250. "*Hindi man lang naka-center.* Look at the signatures. *Isa lang ang nagsulat*," Mr. Sevilla says.

Getting a fake diploma on Recto Avenue is as easy as A-B-C



PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

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They don't call it 'DIPLOMA MILL' for nothing

(From page D1)

neighborhood *labandera.*

You can even haggle with them. In the first stall we visited (where we got our Ateneo diploma), Ateneo, La Salle, FEU and CEU diplomas cost P450. If you want to be a UP graduate, you have to shell out P650. UST is always the most expensive ("*Mas malaki kasi yan. At maganda ang papel,*" the vendors would say, their eyes sparkling proudly, like they were selling us gems).

Stall No. 2, which was just a few steps away, was cheaper. This is where we got our UP diploma. All schools, except for UST, which is P700, go for just P250. Other stalls sell all their diplomas at P450, while their UST was worth P650. If you want to be a foreign school alumnus, just present them a diploma from which they can copy. ("*Pero mas mahal yun,*" they say.)

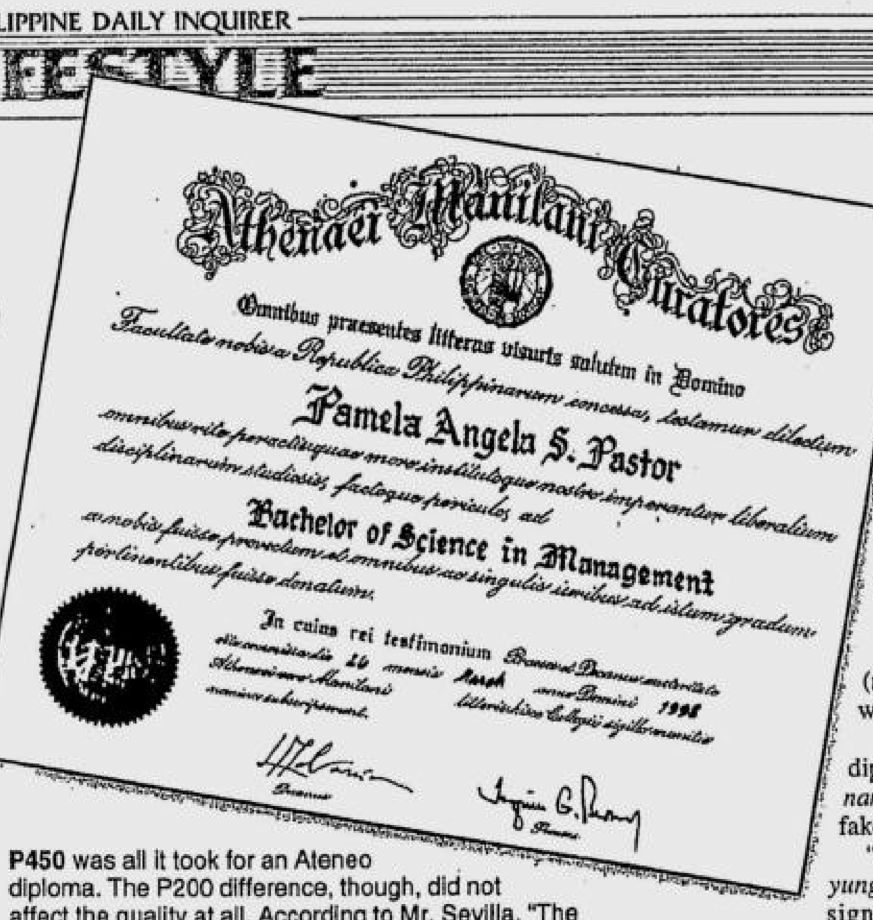
One lady asked, "*Saan ba yan gagamitin?*"

"*Pang*-apply *ho ng trabaho,*" we replied with a straight face.

One man proudly proclaimed, "*Pag dinala mo yan sa* abroad *wala yang problema.*" We gave him a polite smile.

This is a way of life for them. No pangs of guilt, we guess, as long as they're raking in the moolah. They were even laughing when we were having a hard time choosing a school.

It all sounds so easy. You might be thinking, "Why the heck did I spend those years cooped up in hot classrooms when I could have just bought a diploma?" There are many reasons.



Athenaei Manilani Curatores

Omnibus praesentes litteras visuris salutem in Domino

Facultate nobis a Republica Philippinarum concessa, testamur dilectum

Pamela Angela S. Pastor

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Bachelor of Science in Management

a nobis fuisse provectum et omnibus ac singulis iuribus ad istum gradum pertinentibus fuisse donatum.

In cuius rei testimonium Praeses et Decanus auctoritate Universitatis die 26 mensis March anno Domini 1998 litteris hisce Collegii sigillo munitis Athenaei Manilani nomina subscripserunt.

Decanus

Praeses

P450 was all it took for an Ateneo diploma. The P200 difference, though, did not affect the quality at all. According to Mr. Sevilla, "The printing is poor. Just one look and I know it's a fake."

Poor quality

We presented the diplomas to Mr. Sevilla (not his real name), an HRD practitioner who has been in the business for 20 years.

Just seconds after we handed him the two diplomas, he shook his head. "*Kitang-kita naman eh.* It's the quality!" He held up the fake UP diploma.

"Look at this. *Ni hindi naka*-center! Second, *yung* seal. And the printing, the setting, the signatures. They used one ink for all the signatures."

He continued to point out the differences. Seems like the vendors haven't kept up with the changing times.

"Diplomas today carry a special order number, these diplomas don't have that. Plus there are no borders. And the paper! Nobody uses parchment paper anymore—except provincial high schools in far-flung corners of the Philippines. This is an old one that they are just copying. It's poorly done!"

But would companies be able to tell if these diplomas are fake?

"Yes. If you've been in practice for just a year or two, just one look and you'd know it's a fake. The problem is, other companies just ask their secretaries or those employees who don't have a heavy workload to look over the personnel department. It is in these cases *na may nakakalusot.* Some people don't just fake diplomas, they fake drug tests, birth certificates and transcripts."

Mr. Sevilla explains how the changing times have affected the people's drive to falsify public documents. "Twenty years ago, an elementary graduate can work menial jobs. Five or 10 years ago, you had to be a high school graduate before you can work. Today, blue-collar jobs require people to have a college diploma—*kahit para maging* security guard or waitress *lang.*"

And, of course, the desperate would do anything to be able to put food on the table.

Companies to blame

Mr. Sevilla made it clear that individuals aren't the only ones to blame in this matter. "Companies should focus on competency. We can't tell them to lower their standards, but not everything should be based on the requirements, not the diploma. Try to look at the person's competence when you interview them or when you give them tests."

"Just because a person graduated from a top university, it shouldn't automatically assure you that the person is good. It doesn't mean *na dahil galing ka ng* UP (or Ateneo, La Salle or UST) *magaling ka na.* In fact, in my experience, 90 percent of the time people who graduated have a tendency to become lax while those whose requirements are not complete work diligently to prove themselves."

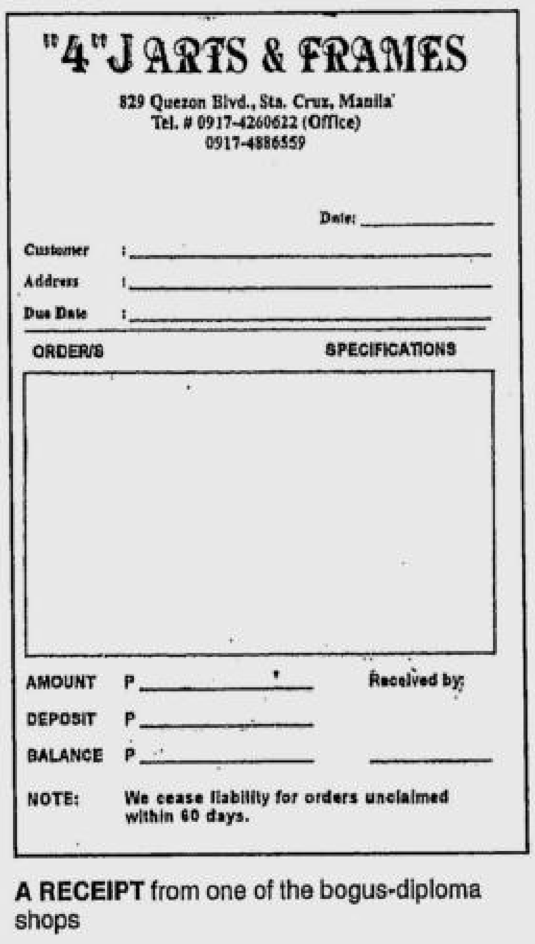
This doesn't mean you should forget that diploma, though.

"You don't need a diploma to enter a company, especially not in these days when there is a paradigm shift taking place. But, of course, working means you will be moving up. You will need a diploma when you move to supervisory positions. Don't fake it. *Maraming hindi tapos*—but you have to be honest."

When asked about people who would be willing to use fake diplomas, Mr. Sevilla said, with a sad look in his eyes, "I pity them. I really pity the people who would get these. You spend a lot of money. *Maba*-blacklisted *ka pa.*"

"It's not even because it's a crime against the company or the state. It's illegal. It's your self-image. You're cheating yourself. *Niloloko mo ang sarili mo.* It's a crime against yourself. Why would you want to be a fake?"

E-mail the authors at pammy@exchange.ph and jules26@gurlmail.com



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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0602. SERIES OF 2001

From acne-prone skin to bloating

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I HAVE big, ripe zits all over my upper chest, shoulders and back. Now I can't even wear those strapless and spaghetti straps I am so fond off. What I notice is that these are the areas where my hair touches my bare skin. My hair is not at all dirty. In fact, I shampoo every day and at times even twice a day. I wash these areas with acne formula face washes, but the old pimples are barely gone when new ones take their place. What else can I do?

MAUREEN

Sounds like the culprit is your hair product. The shampoo and/or conditioner you are using are/is too rich a formula that you don't get to rinse off well. Never wash your body first then shampoo as the final step because the residue of your shampoo or conditioner stays on your skin and clogs up the pores of your chest, shoulders and upper back. Before you wash your body, be sure your hair has already been washed, conditioned and rinsed clean.

Remember that shampoo and conditioner have opposite charges. Shampoo is positive and rinses off clean with warm water, while conditioner is negative and rinses off clean with cool to cold water. When you soap your body, pay special attention to these pimple-prone areas with your body cleanser. Go over them with soap and make sure after you rinse off that there is no slimier residue. Continue cleaning those pimply zones with your facial wash for acne-prone skin and treat with them zit medication.

* * *

IS it possible to get immune to a particular exercise? I have been jogging for a year now for one hour a day, five to six times a week. I realized I am no longer losing as much weight as I use to. I have lost 47 pounds within the first 10 months as I have also combined this with a low-fat diet. But now I have stopped losing. I still maintain the diet but why has my weight loss slowed down? I am still overweight by at least 30 pounds, according to my doctor.

GREGGY

One reason is those pounds are extra stubborn because they have been with you too long so your body has a harder time dislodging it. If you keep on the exercise, it will budge eventually. Another thing is, our bodies do get immune to a particular type of exercise. I read in a Vogue magazine article several years ago that doing the same type of exercise ceases to work when your body gets familiarized with the routine. It's the body's natural survival instinct. Imagine if we were to really run every day and continued losing weight at the same rate—we would disappear eventually. Look for another aerobic activity like tennis, ballroom dancing, using a stepper, tae bo, etc. Then you could eventually go back to running or speed walking. The new exercise will shock the system and will make you lose weight faster again.

* * *

WHY am I always so bloated? I try not to drink water unless I'm really thirsty now but I still bloat. Is there any pill I can take for the bloating to subside?

ELAINE

It isn't the water you should cut down on but your intake of sodium found mainly in salt, sugar and MSG. Sodium is what makes us retain extra water. Bloating, in fact, is caused by not drinking enough water. You need water to flush down toxins and sodium.

Remember the saturation experiments we had in science class? Mix some salt in water and it dissolves, but as you keep adding salt, it eventually cannot dissolve anymore unless more water is added. This is what happens to our body. The extra sodium will make your body crave water to flush it out of your system. So gulp down that water and cut down on sodium to prevept yourself from bloating. As for bloating before you have your period, ask your pharmacist to recommend a diuretic (water pill) to fight PMS pain related to bloating. I use Dichlotride or Lasix.

For any questions, or products you want to road test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. All-065, Series of 2001

An odyssey of courage

By Araceli Altmann Linsangan

HER name is Finjane, an intriguing name for a girl. I asked her where it came from, and she laughed, "My father named me Finjane. You see, he was expecting a boy, whom he was going to name Serafin Jr., after him. He got a girl instead—that's me—but he couldn't quite do away with the name Serafin. So he prefixed the last three letters to my name."

Finjane Abecia was first noticed attending healing sessions of Fr. Corsie Legaspi in the second half of 1997. She looked pathetic then—reed thin and emaciated, with unseeing eyes and just a few strands of hair on her head. She wore no bandanna to shield a head gone bare from chemotherapy. And she always had a red number card stuck to her shirt, which indicated she had cancer.

That was three and a half years ago. Today she is a walking miracle, and is back at school to realize a dream that was once shattered by a catastrophic illness.

Midyear of 1997, Finjane was diagnosed as having cancer of the ovary. It all started with a minor stomach cramp, which she readily dismissed as premenstrual pain. Little did she suspect that such cramp would change her life and that of her family.

She had her period after that first stomach cramp, but a week later she felt a tightening sensation in her lower abdomen. She also noted that the abdomen was getting bigger. She consulted with her mother's gynecologist.

An ultrasound test confirmed she had immature terratoma, a kind of tumor, and surgery had to be undertaken as soon as possible. The tumor was large, but her family remained unworried as tumors of the benign variety ran in the clan—Finjane had cousins who had ovarian tumors and became fine after surgery.

Because an operation was necessary, her parents advised Finjane to stop schooling for at least a semester. So she applied for a leave of absence from the university. "I felt more depressed having to stop schooling, than having a tumor and a forthcoming operation. You see, I enjoyed school, even if I was not exactly an outstanding student. I was in my senior year, BS Statistics, at the University of the Philippines. And I knew I would not be graduating that year if I took a leave of absence."

Grim news

Finjane underwent her first operation in July of 1997. As predicted, the tumor was large and had crushed her right ovary so the surgeon removed it. After a biopsy, Finjane was referred to an oncologist.

After more tests by the oncologist, the prognosis looked grim: "She told me that I would have to undergo a second surgery, this time on the left ovary. And after surgery I would need chemotherapy because I had ovarian cancer, Stage 3, and my left ovary would have to go, too."

It was only then that Finjane realized how seriously ill she was. And desperately she hoped that the oncologist was wrong. But her oncologist repeated the tests to confirm her findings. She was right.

She was shocked, of course, so were the members of her family. "I began to ask God why, why did this thing have to happen to me?"—a typical question from young ones struck down by terminal illness. Finjane was only 20. And a college diploma was almost within her grasp.

FINJANE Abecia prepares for graduation at the end of this schoolyear.

Soon enough her dream of helping out her family vanished. In its place, depression set in.

A second surgery was done on Sept. 30, 1997. Finjane's second ovary was removed. But the doctors left her uterus intact, for possible artificial insemination in the future should she recover and decide to marry.

Chemo sessions began after the operation, which became a real nightmare. She could neither eat nor sleep, and felt pain all over her body. She lost 35 pounds in two months. "I was so irritable then because of the pain. And I had forgotten what it was to smile."

For Finjane, it was not only she who was stricken with cancer but her whole family as well. Her father, an army man, was earning just enough to give his family the necessities, and his children the best education. Family savings were fast dissipating. But somehow, they were able to raise money for her treatment.

"By December 1997, I had weakened considerably. And I could not believe the person who stared back at me in the mirror!" Finjane exclaimed.

She could not finish her chemotherapy. She took only two out of six monthly sessions prescribed, and only nine of 12 weekly sessions. Her veins had collapsed and she could no longer take in the medicine. She wore a bandage over her right wrist, which showed chemical burns from chemo.

When her white blood cells took a sudden dive, she was given blood transfusion, after which she lost consciousness then her vision, too. Finally she was sent home "to rest." Nothing more could be done for her. She was in constant pain and given morphine every four hours and recommended for hospice care.

Gift of healing

"At this point," says Finjane, "I argued with God again. I said, 'Lord, why is this happening to me? I am only 20 and I am dying. People do not die at 20. Why did you let me reach my senior year just to let me see all my dreams crumble?' There was no answer. There was simply no answer. So I just prayed for the pain to go away. And the pain did go away because I was taking larger doses of morphine, and was becoming less and less alive."

Finjane heard about Father Corsie through an uncle and an aunt. Her father, then assigned in Mindanao, had to take a leave to accompany his daughter to the healing sessions. She attended the sessions on a wheelchair, as she could not walk without help.

"On my third healing session, I got my vision back! As I was led to our vehicle I observed, to my great joy, the different colors of trunks and leaves and sky. For me that was a miracle—to be able to see again, and enjoy God's beautiful creation again."

"After my fourth session," Finjane continues. "I felt so hungry and asked for food. Since then, I have never lost my appetite again. For me this was another miracle."

Altogether, father and daughter attended no less than 50 sessions with Father Corsie, from Tarlac in the North to Bukidnon in the South. By this time she was off chemo completely, as well as with morphine and other medications.

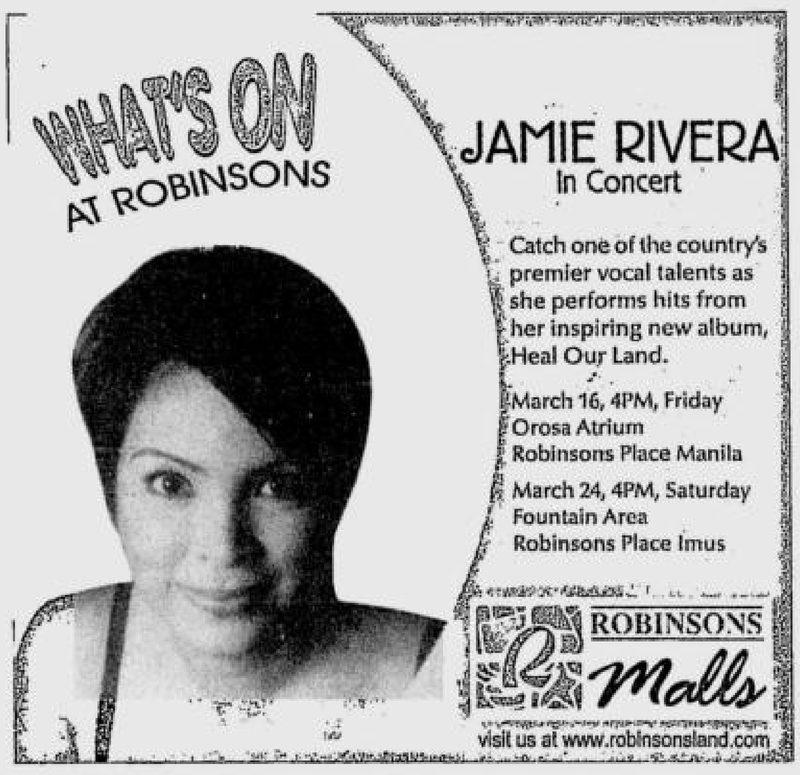
"Those healing sessions really helped me a lot," says Finjane. "I began to appreciate God's love for me. I became less depressed. And slowly, miraculously, I began to smile again. That to me, was the greatest miracle of all."

In April 1999, Finjane's parents finally gave her permission to go back to school. She had been off school for two years! She needed a clearance to get enroled again, so she went back to her doctor. And her medical certificate pronounced her perfectly healthy.

She had two more checkups after that, one in July and another in October 1999. "In both instances, the doctor confirmed that there is no more clinical evidence of cancer in my body."

"I am grateful to a lot of people who had helped me in my battle against cancer," Finjane concludes, "to my family for having been supportive and caring all along; to my friends who visited me and told funny stories to cheer me up; to Father Corsie specially, for sharing his precious gift of healing with those afflicted with sickness and pain. And finally, my unending gratitude goes to Our Lord, for having blessed me with His grace, and for having showered me and my family with His love."

FINJANE (seated center) relaxes with her sisters and cousin in her parents' home in Guadalupe, Makati.



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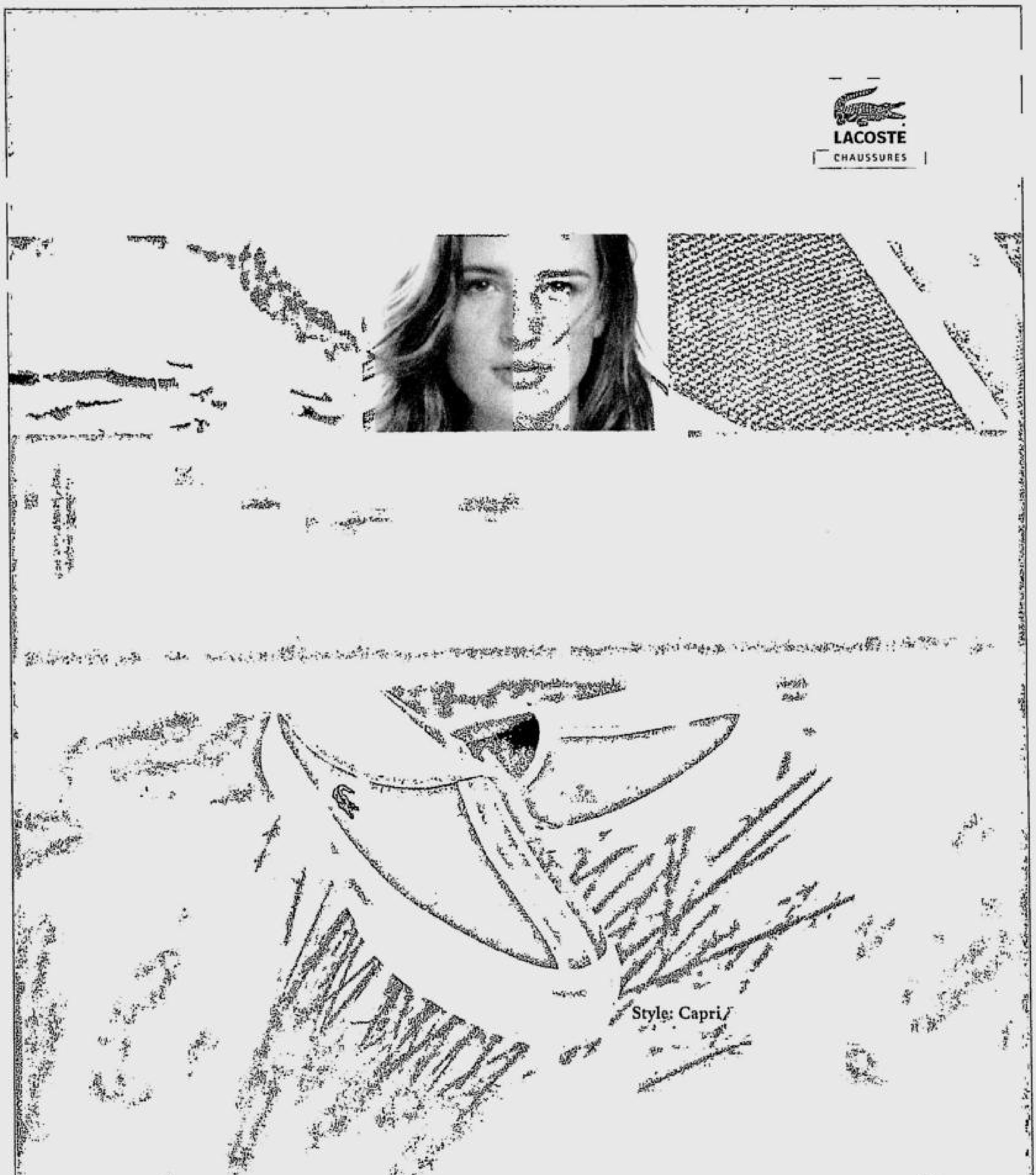

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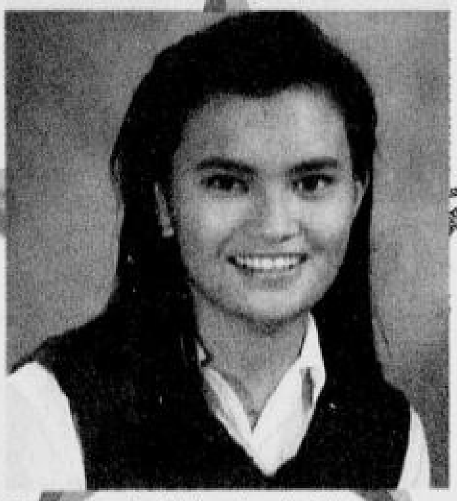
2bU! grad picks!

They exemplify the hope, vitality and creativity of Batch 2001



DAPHNE Oseña, high school at Notre Dame, Vancouver, Canada

CHUBI del Rosario, circa grade 7, De La Salle-Zobel

MYLENE Dizon, high school graduation from Poveda Learning Center

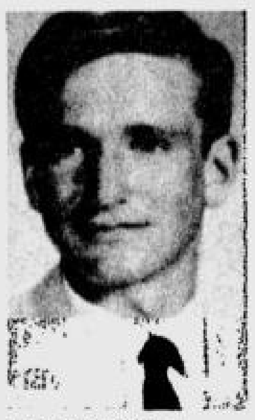
WE here at 2bU! chose three local celebrities who best embody today's graduating batch—fresh, graceful and daring.

Chubi del Rosario is a breath of fresh air in his batch of young actors. He has this aura of innocence, yet you sense he has a fair grasp of what he wants in life.

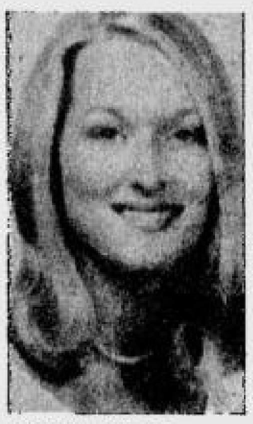
Daphne Oseña embodies elegance and sophistication—from the way she moves and talks, she's every inch the quintessential woman. From "F" to "Urban Guide to Living," she exudes a quiet kind of confidence. She is definitely the kind of woman others would love to envy.

Mylene Dizon says what's on her mind. She is unafraid to express herself. Acting is a craft she is getting recognition for—from sweet to mature roles, she has proven that one does not need to conform to succeed.

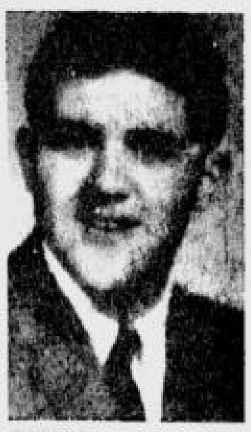
Tim Yap



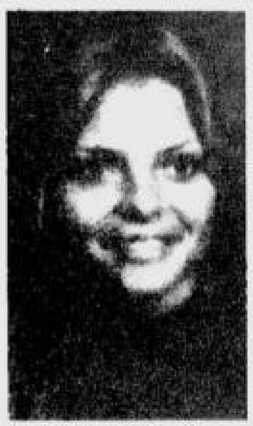
ROBIN Williams



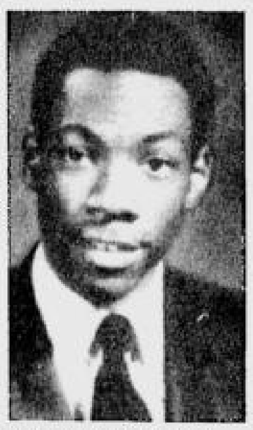
MERYL Streep



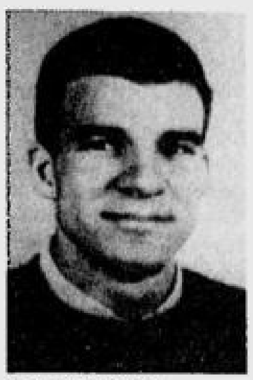
JAMES Leno



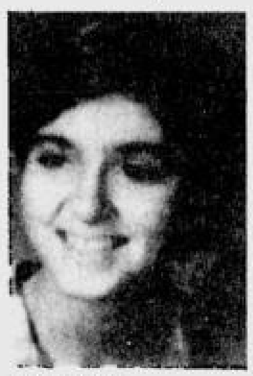
MICHELLE Pfeiffer



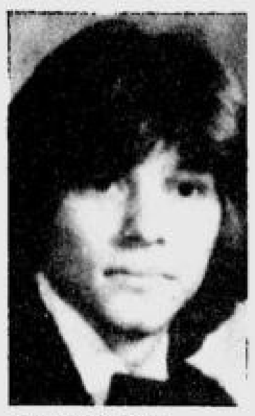
EDWARD Murphy



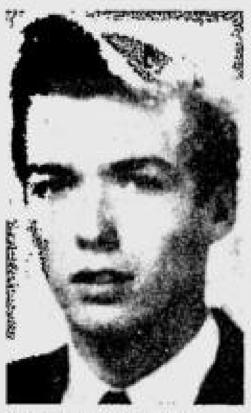
STEVE Martin



MADONNA



JON Bon Jovi



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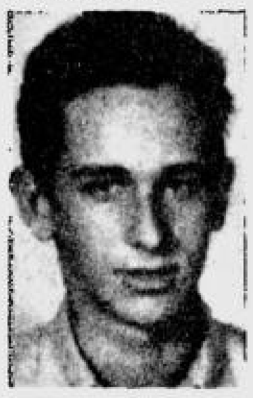
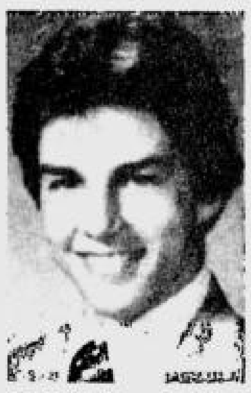


STEVEN Spielberg



TOM Cruise

2bU!'s Hollywood Yearbook

Here they are: Jay Leno back when his chin was still cute, Meryl Streep before she acquired her accents and Michael Jackson back when he was still black and normal

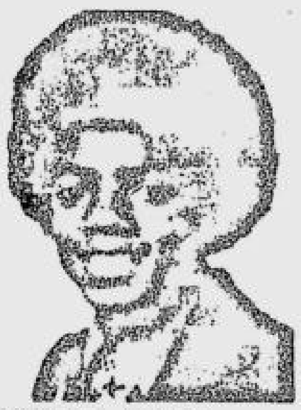
BY TIM YAP

EVER wondered how Jay Leno looked in high school? Was Meryl Streep as beautiful before as she is now? I'm sure you've forgotten how Michael Jackson looked like before he made the decision to be Janet's twin sis.

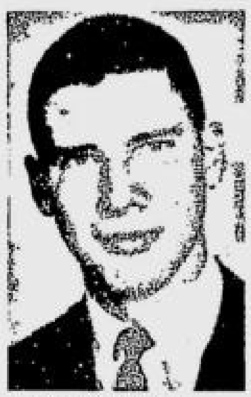
We dug up a special issue of Memories magazine to check out how our favorite Hollywood personalities appeared in school. Their hobbies, the organizations they joined and the awards they garnered reflect part of what they are today.

The truth of the matter is, no matter how far they have gone in life, they have worked hard for it. Every step of the way is a combination of talent, luck and sheer determination.

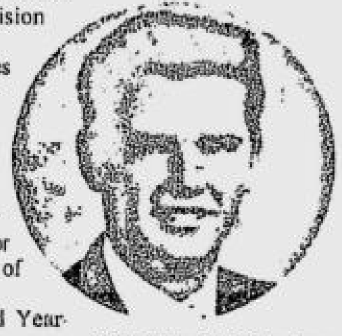
Witness on this page 2bU!'s Hollywood Yearbook.



MICHAEL Jackson



HARRISON Ford



JOHN (Jack) Nicholson

The Lakeshore

MESSAGES

We, at the Metro Pacific Corporation, take great pride in being part of *The Lakeshore*, a world-class development project that is fast taking shape in Pampanga.

This signature project is a show of investors' confidence in the national leadership and serves as another Metro Pacific Corporation's contribution towards the continuous economic development of the nation.

(SGD) MANUEL V. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Metro Pacific Corporation

Central Country Estate, Inc. has embarked on a truly challenging venture with this project. Metro Pacific's Corporation's involvement in *The Lakeshore* guarantees the quality in development standards of this urban community in Central Luzon. The same development standards in Metro Pacific's other countryside residential development projects will be employed in The Lakeshore project.

Even as we launch this project today, *The Lakeshore* is still a vision. But Central Country Estate, Inc. promises to make it a reality by building the best-planned and modern urban community in Central Luzon in the near future.

(SGD) RICARDO S. PASCUA
Vice-Chairman, President & CEO
Metro Pacific Corporation

"And the vision has taken place."

Years back, I dreamt of an ideal community, where nature blends perfectly well with the comfort of modern living amenities; where trees and calm water abound; where families and friends can enjoy good times together; a place that everybody can proudly call as their home.

With steadfast effort and uncompromising commitment, this dream has become a reality with *The Lakeshore* project.

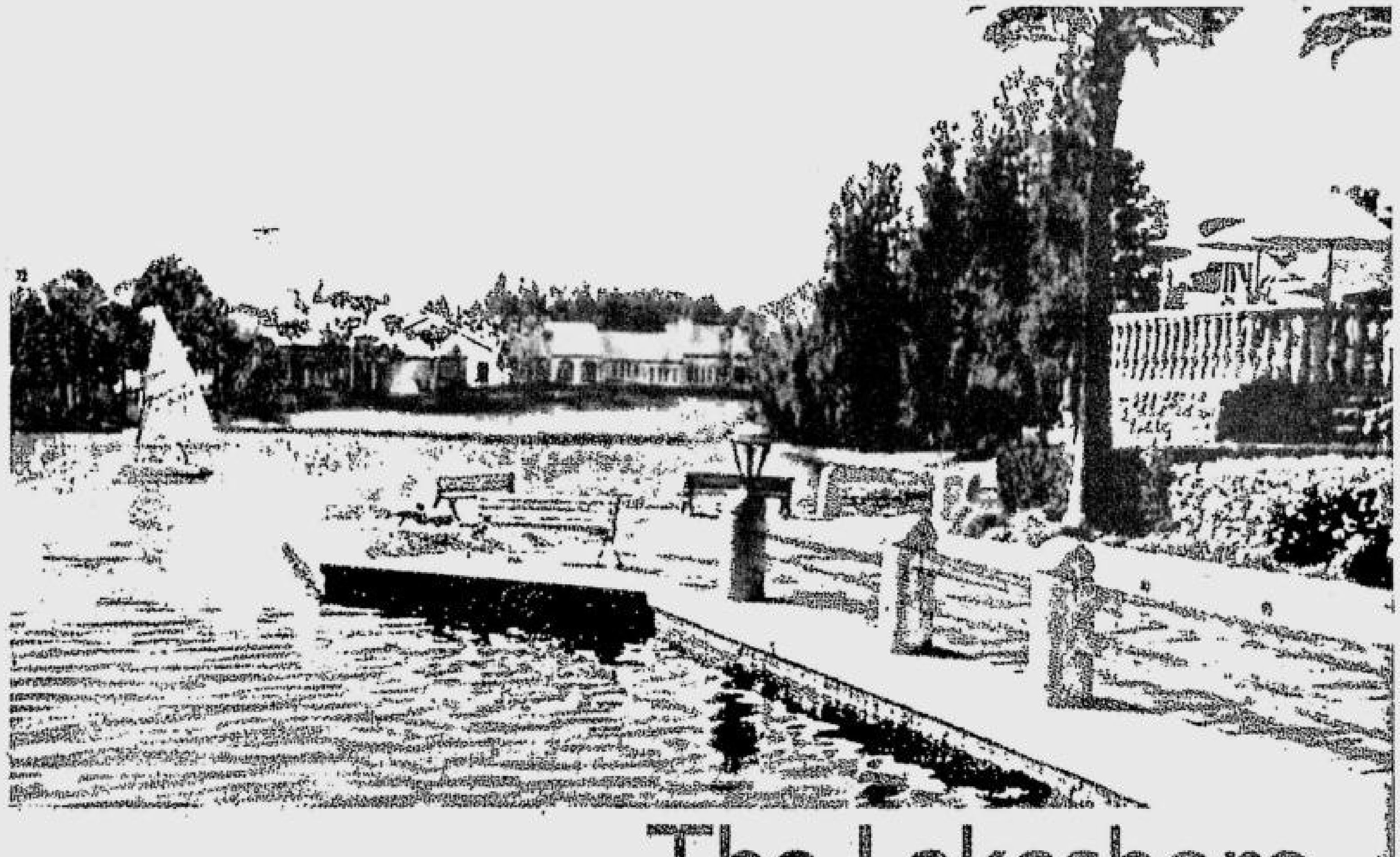
And as we hail the new national leadership, we at Central Country Estate Incorporated will continue to contribute to our nation's progress.

"Welcome home...to *The Lakeshore!*"

(SGD) ARCHITECT NESTOR S. MANGIO
Chairman & President
Central Country Estate, Inc.

Celebrating Life Leisure at its Best

The Lakeshore is a 234-hectare property development with residential, commercial, recreational facilities and institutional elements with a 12-hectare man-made lake as its main feature - a first of its kind in the Philippines!



The Lakeshore

Strategically located at Km 71 along the North Luzon Expressway in Mexico, Pampanga, it is envisioned to be Central Luzon's future leisure hub.

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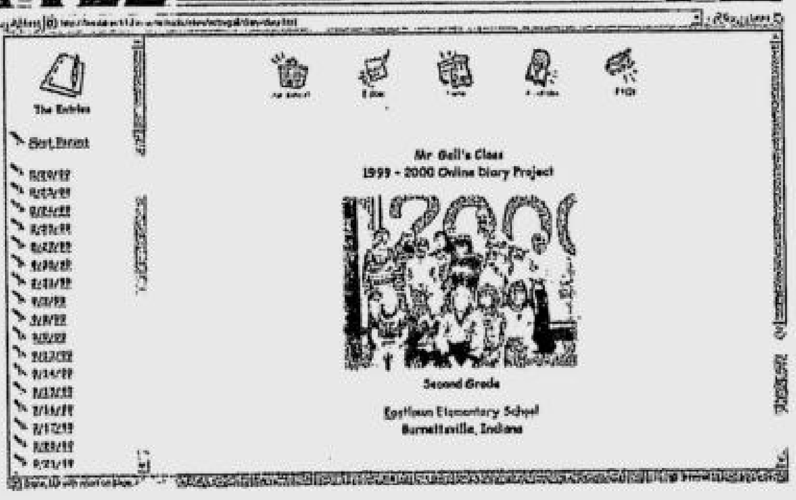
WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Second grade was never this much fun



GRADUATION, the day of all days, is finally here! People who keep journals and diaries can always look back at their years in prison, I mean, school and see if they've come out of it unscathed by the rigors of going through the educational system.

If you log onto http://twinlakes.k12.in.us/schools/elem/el/mrgall/diary/diary.html, you'll have the honor and pleasure of taking a glimpse into the day-to-day adventures of the second grade class of Eastlawn Elementary School in their online diary.

With a project that started way back in 1997, teacher Mr. Gall had his second grade class write diary entries in class and he'd put them, including spelling mistakes, in the Web for the whole world to read. This site is simple but it sure is a lot of fun. The entries are hilarious, sweet and incredibly endearing.

How many of us would remember what it's like being in second grade? One entry reads "To day is my 2nd Day at school. I am nrvist."

The site has the required FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) sheet and the funny thing is there's one single INfrequently Asked Question, "How come I was a perfect speller when I was in second grade?" You'll have to log on to find out the hilarious answer to this one.

Now that school's finally over, take a moment to take stock of this chapter in your life, the same way one student did, "I liked this year better than any other year. Because I learned times, multiplacation, alot of words, my numbers to one thusand, how to draw straight lines, write in curseve, and add things at the end of a word. I also like my teacher. He is very nice." What about you? *Walter Ang*

Grad chic from SM

KIDS are proud to belong to Batch 2001 as they march in style with graduation clothes from SM.

Girls are pretty and pristine in white, making graceful bows in organza dresses with lace, pearl, floral and ribbon accents. Young boys, on the other hand, march with their heads up high in smart organza barongs or trubenized tops paired with black pants.

The graduation collection is available at the Children's Wear Department at all SM stores.

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Congratulations to all the winners of South SUPERMARKET Gift of Green

ANNIVERSARY PROMO

Ramil Barlas and Jenny Maristela of Valenzuela branch hand over seedling donations to Ms. Nitz Zeno, OIC Clean and Green, Valenzuela.

Mr. Manuel Alipon (in jacket), Brgy Captain, receives trash cans from Sta. Rosa branch representatives Jojo Gustilo, OIC Esguerra and Belen Rinon.

Mr. Jimmy Tolentino (third from right), City Agriculturist of Lipa City receives donations from Lipa branch representative, Dennis Tan.

BATANGAS

1st Prize	Umali, Arceli - 14 Purok 2, San Sebastian Lipa
2nd Prize	Sarmiento Erlinda - 453 POB, Malvar, Batangas
3rd Prize	Ilagan, Koren - Sta. Rita, Batangas

STA. ROSA

1st Prize	Recanor, Cherry - 101 Kalaw St. San Jose V1
2nd Prize	Ronquillo, Virginia - Pacita 2, Blk 2 Lot 10 San Pedro Laguna
3rd Prize	Guevarra, Sylvia - Blk 60 Lot 8 Ph K San Lorenzo South Sta. Rosa

LOS BANOS

1st Prize	Bucayod, Luis II - Evio St. Victoria, Laguna
2nd Prize	Masa, Aleli - Brgy Masapang, Victoria, Laguna
3rd Prize	Jimenez, Ronaldo - 5556 Maharlika Vill., Maahas, Los Banos, Laguna

VALENZUELA

1st Prize	Erasmo, Angelina 83 Int. Maysan Rd.
2nd Prize	Tan, Reynaldo 45 Kaypandan St., Canumay, Valenzuela City
3rd Prize	Domingo, Rubina P. Lucas St., Balubaran, Valenzuela City

MALOLOS

1st Prize	Enriquez, Cherryl Purok 4, Cofradia, Malolos, Bulacan
2nd Prize	Pia, Epifania Dampol Plaridel Bulacan
3rd Prize	Dionisio, Divina 771 Sukol St., San Sebastian, Hagunoy Bulacan

MAGALLANES

1st Prize	Gonzaga, Liberty - 3911 Marigold St., San Valley, Paranaque
2nd Prize	Karaan, Hector - 3 Monticlaire St., Merville, Paranaque
3rd Prize	Sebastain, Gertie - 510 Cernan, Moonwalk, Paranaque

ALABANG

1st Prize	Jimenez, Regina - 80 Roxas Chua Pacific Vill., Ayala Alabang
2nd Prize	Santiago, Feliza - 35 Mindanao Drive, Ayala Alabang
3rd Prize	Aguinaldo, Ma. Vanessa - 313 San Bartolome St., San Antonio Valley, Sucat, Paranaque

PASIG

1st Prize	Maritess, Costin - 294 San Isidro St., Brgy Holy Spirit, QC
2nd Prize	Carpio, Frederick - 20 P de los Santos St., Anbit, San Mateo, Rizal
3rd Prize	Silveste, Aurea Nieto - 495 Gen. Capinpin St. Manggahan, Pasig City

Pasig Branch representatives Noel Macalalad and Pablo Arellano turn over Clean & Green signages to Brgy. Dela Paz Kagawad Sulpicio M. Padual.

Los Banos branch representative, Jocelyn Perfecio (left) hand over seedlings to Los Banos Municipal City representatives headed by Mayor Francisco Lapis (right).

SOUTH SUPERM

Mayor Resty Roque of Malolos (third from left) receives seedling donations from Malolos branch representative Arlo Lumbera (third from right).

Having a ball out of graduation parties

2bU! lists down alternative celebrations for the not-so-ordinary graduate

By Pam Pastor

Congratulations, graduate. The moment you have long been waiting for has arrived. Say goodbye to school, teachers, quizzes and endless term papers. Now that finals are over, you have something big to look forward to—the rest of your life.

To say you have reason to celebrate is an understatement. This is one thing your parents couldn't agree with more—your right to throw a party.

Before you start thinking about your empty pockets, relax. You don't have to rent a bar for one night. No need to hire expensive caterers and party planners. Having fun isn't synonymous to shelling out big, big bucks. Not if you read on:

Have a sleepover. Slumber parties, regardless of whether you're graduating or not, are loads of fun. Get your closest friends together and get silly. Play truth or dare, give each other makeovers (guys, you can skip this one), gossip the night away. Paint the faces of the people who fall asleep first. One big tip: Make sure you have enough munchies to last 'til morning.

Get your eyes sore. Have a graduation movie marathon. Go to the nearest video rental store and grab these off the shelves: "With Honors," "The Graduate," "Can't Hardly Wait," "Glory Daze," etc. Load up on microwave popcorn and soda and you're all set. You can incorporate ideas 1 and 2 and have a blast with your buddies.

More movies. Here's a twist on idea 2. Rent movies that were shot in schools—the weirder the characters, the better. Borrow "The Faculty," "Teaching Mrs. Tingle," "Carrie," "Jawbreaker," "Cruel Intentions," etc., then settle back, relax and start snickering. Seeing the horrors of academic life on the boob tube will make you even more thankful that you're out of school. Get comfort from the fact that you're never going to set foot on those halls again.

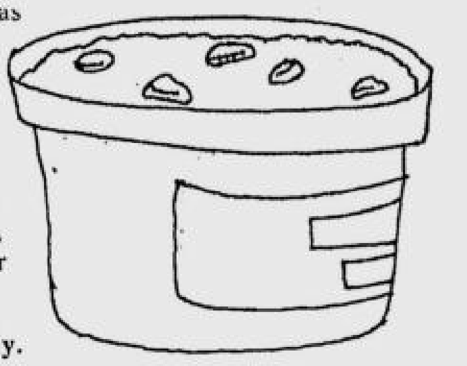
Smokin'. Get your charcoal-stained grill and have a barbecue with your friends in your own garden. Get those burger patties (errr, you might want to rethink that), hot dogs and kebabs ready. Lay out a mat or pull out chairs from the house. Play good music and trade stories with your guests. Make sure someone minds the grill—you want to feed your guests, don't you?

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Road trip. Who says you have to stay cooped up in your house? Head up to Tagaytay or Baguio with your friends. Half the fun is the looooong ride. Make sure you bring things to keep you entertained—music, books, your pet dog (your friends will probably hate you for that), your Gameboy and of course, your trusty old cell phone (don't forget to recharge!).

Brainfreeze! Forget your calorie intake for a while. It's almost summer. It's hot, it's sticky and you're sweating—a lot. You need one thing—ice cream! And tons of it. Have a sundae buffet with your friends. Get gallons of the basic flavors—chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. Stock up on toppings—cherries, bananas, strawberries, peaches, almonds, cashews, walnuts, macadamia nuts—pile them up. Make sure you have different kinds of syrup—chocolate, hot fudge, caramel and strawberry. Don't forget the whipped cream.

Theme parties



If these ideas aren't enough, you might want to try a theme party. These parties take a tad bit more work, but you can be sure that your guests will love you for it.

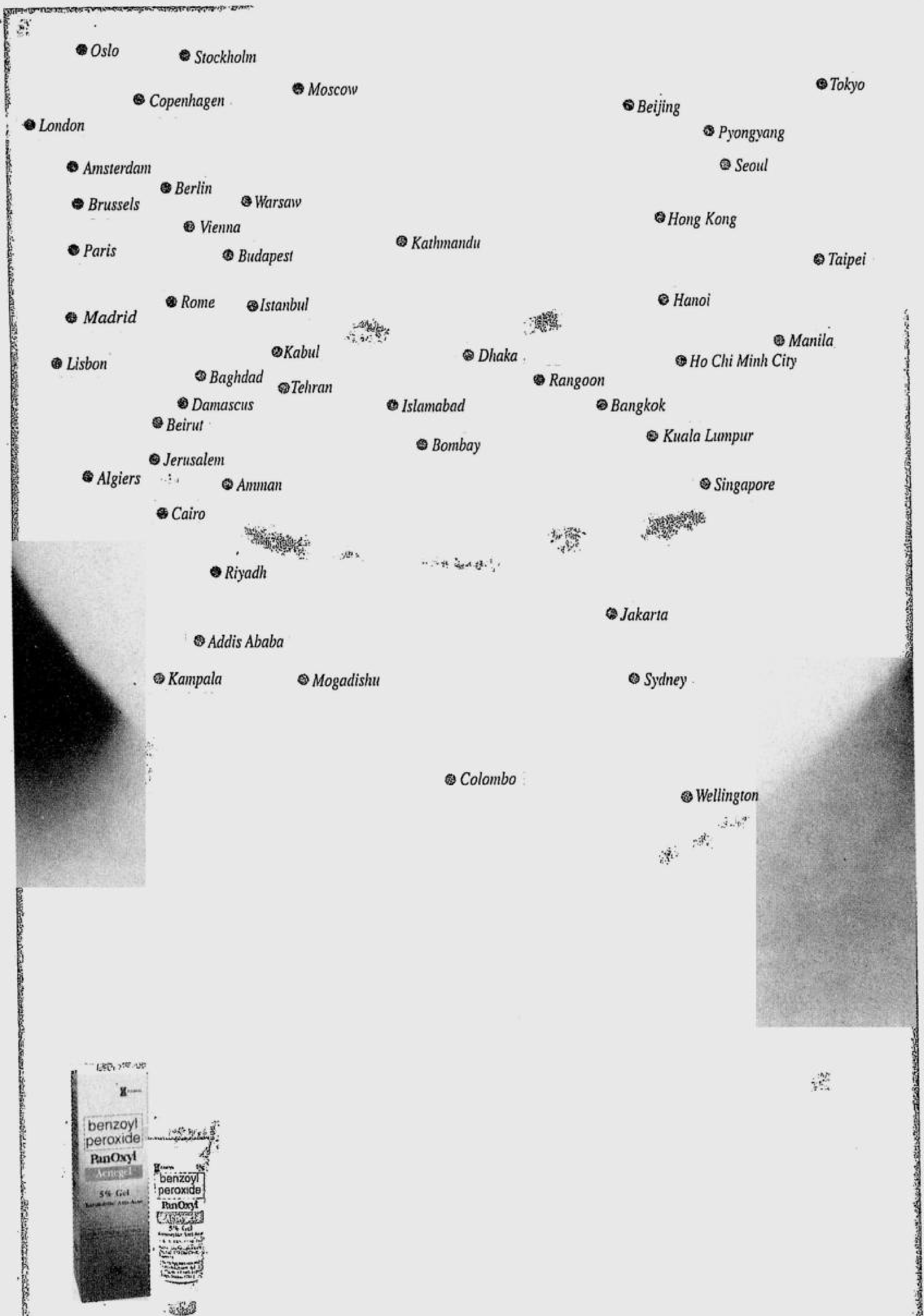
Kiddie party. You're about to step into the so-called adult world. Give yourself one last chance to act like a little kid. Have a children's party - complete with all the frills. Decorate your venue with streamers and balloons. Play games (Forget Strip Poker. Think Trip to Jerusalem, Newspaper Dance, Statue Dance, Pin the Tail on the Donkey, etc.) Serve the traditional kiddie party food on colorful paper plates—spaghetti, barbecue, fried chicken, hotdog with marshmallows. Prepare loot bags with little trinkets—candy, chocolates, bead bracelets and barrettes. Hire clowns and a magician if you can afford it.

Forecast fun. Ask your guests to come dressed as what they envision themselves to be 10 years from now. Make sure you have a lot of food. Since you and your friends are about to step into the crazy corporate world, make little therapy kits for them. Get nice little bags or a tin case and put together little things that will help your friends deal with the stress of working 24/7—beads, nylon, threading needles so they can make bracelets, necklaces and rings in their off-hours; DMC thread in funky colors so they can weave friendship bracelets, crayons so they can doodle, clay to relieve their stressed mind and hands. Add a little note and a list of tips. Tell them what they can do with the therapy kit you made especially for them. They may not get it now, but they'll thank you months later, when they're up to their elbows with work.

Time-travel to the past. Sure, the future has a lot in store for you. But that doesn't mean you should turn your back on recent and not-so-recent memories. Turn your party into a trip down memory lane. Watch old videos of your school parties, your out-of-town trips, bring out your photo albums and laugh (or cry—hey, it's your party!) about the memories. Ask your old cafeteria lady to cook the party food. Then again, scratch that. You wouldn't want your guests to run away screaming the whole time. Play charades—impersonate your old teachers and have the others guess who they are. Give Spin the Bottle a new twist—make your friends spill old secrets. Play songs that bring back memories. Surprise your friends with little scrapbooks that they can bring home. Put together old photos, ticket stubs, a piece of fabric from your uniform, neoprints and add funny little captions. Before the party ends, make a vow—stay in touch, no matter how grueling real life turns out to be.

There you have it. Now it's up for you to decide. You have reason to celebrate. Don't waste it.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph.



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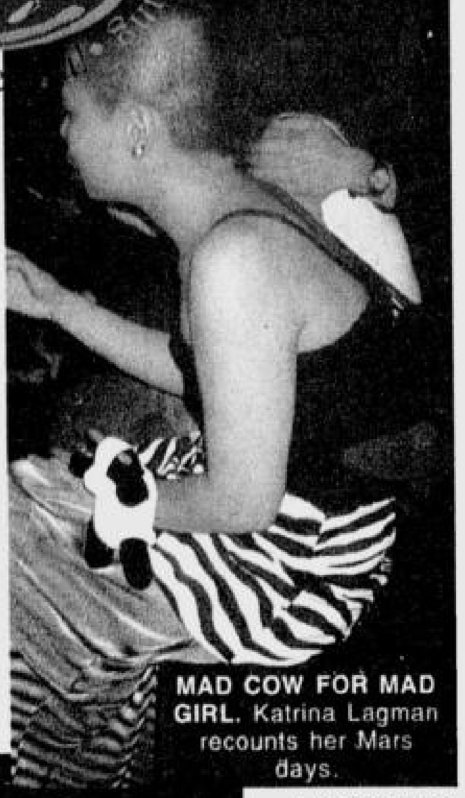
PA-01-01 PH

FRESH GOES BETTER. Dottie Benedicto and Anthony Ng

CHEEK TO CHEEK. Marco Antonio and Jackie Cohen prove that distance makes the heart grow fonder.

THREE takes from Celine Lopez, prior to her *despedida* to San Francisco and New York, Jayvee de Vienecia and Wendy Puyat

FUNKY divas Mimi and Juliet Tan


MAD COW FOR MAD GIRL. Katrina Lagman recounts her Mars days.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Nocturnalites' new era

Tim Yap

"IT'S the end of an era..." Thus exclaimed my friend, Channel [V] VJ **Mike Zerrudo**, as he gave me a tight hug, full of emotion and bittersweet remembrance during the closing night of Planet Mars last Saturday.

I stood in the middle of the dance floor as a slew of old and new faces grooved to the club's beat, then all of a sudden, nostalgia dawned on me. Ten-plus years of this red, hot planet's existence is now coming to an end.

To a lot of people in the scene, Mars was where they started clubbing. This was where they would let their hair down after a stressful week in school, where they lit their first cigarette, where they brought their dates to have a swinging time on the dance floor. I know of some partyphiles whose first kiss happened here, right smack center around the old bar area.

This was where I would see **Pico Gonzales** gyrate to the techno tunes with what seemed like luminous mini batons eons of years ago. Later on, I would find out that they were called glow sticks. This was where a certain **Alvin Barbasa** waited in line (a long one, at that), and was refused entry, via a snooty door person. "I think that was **Max Chua** or **Adam de Lumen**..." recounts Alvin, now its well-loved operations manager.

High school reunion

Back then, you had Faces, Euphoria and Mars. Faces closed as a farewell to the era of shoulder pads, Euphoria got sold at the height of the sudden shift of nocturnalites from disco to bar, and Mars survived, amidst all the up-again-down-again roller coaster ride that most night spots go through.

Here, memories were formed—from celebrities who were discovered (beauty queen-turned-broadcaster **Joyce Ann Burton**, who was the club's first lights person; Zerrudo used to be the club's promoter, then became an emcee, then DJ to VJ) to personalities who clashed (and that's putting it lightly—and I don't need to enumerate—everybody knows who's done what).

"It feels like a high school reunion!" said style-phile **Leah Puyat** as she observed the guests who took their time out of their busy work or family schedules just to pay respects to their hangout's last hurrah.

"Groove is in the heart..." The song struck a chord with the throng on the dance floor. It was followed by "Elevate my mind..." Yes, I do wanna get higher, it was my last Mars dance, anyway.

The last night of Mars' world ended before sunrise, where the staff and crew hugged each other, with tears in their eyes as they all downed shots of hard liquor.

The night's vibe was potent and biting, just like a shot of tequila sliding down your throat.

Venezia's vanity

Weeks before, I dropped by the city's hot happenings from the Rustan's Jaguar draw, the Muletopia trip to Ibiza promo, to reigning bar royalty Venezia's fab fourth year anniversary (photos on this page)—where the invite states "veni, vidi, vici..."

Indeed, Venezia came, saw the scene of corporate hipsters, and conquered the night set in its own inimitable way. **Louie Ysmael**'s pioneering style is inimitable, his music on a different level.

Other people argue that the crowd is not the same as before, but that is part of a venue's evolution. Longevity, and not "trendy appeal," is the name of the bar-hopping game. Consistency in service and products is what makes a business, no matter if it's a karaoke joint or a bake shop.

Life is all a matter of perspective—some might think it's the end of an era. But to others, it's the beginning of a new one.

JAGUAR JOYFUL. Rustan's Joel Tantoco and twentysomething Marix Martinez pose in front of the Jaguar, which the latter won from the raffle.

SAVVY sisters Tanya and Ana Martha Moreno on a night out

RED hot planeteers Erich Edralin and Tito Manapat

EXPOSED. Malou Araneta and Kimi Johnson at the bar

MALE AND MORE. Alain Sia and Chris Garcia chilling out

BEST of times for Marnie Arcilla and Erika Fife during the former's *despedida* to Canada

MULE TO IBIZA. Lee Armas is flying to the party capital, here with Betsy Medalla, who is off to Jakarta.

BRUCE Lee fixations of your columnist and Brando Umali

ALEX Santos, Kara Talan and Rosa de Sequera at the anniversary bash

CAPTIVATING PAIR. Paul and Martha on the dance floor

Place your nose on this square.

If a stain appears, then your skin is too oily. Wash away excess oils that may cause pimples, blackheads and whiteheads with Acne-Aid.

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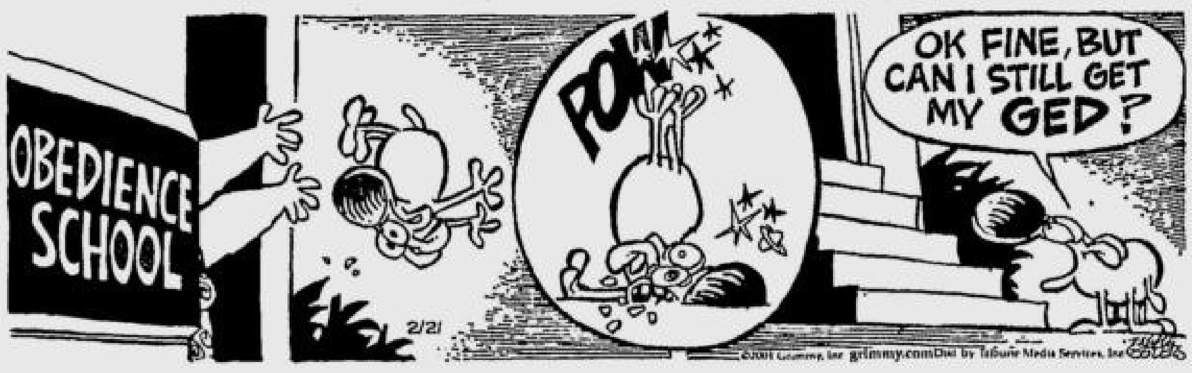
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OBEDIENCE SCHOOL
POW
OK FINE, BUT CAN I STILL GET MY GED?
2/21
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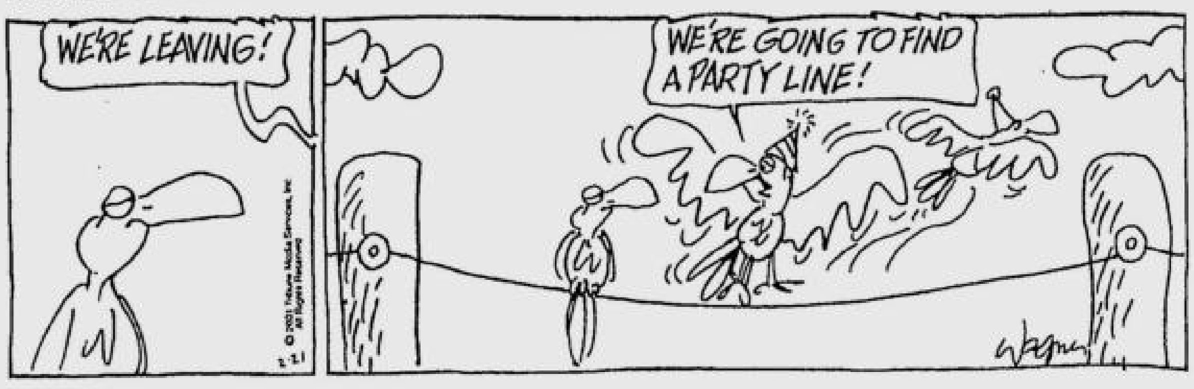
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WE'RE LEAVING!
WE'RE GOING TO FIND A PARTY LINE!
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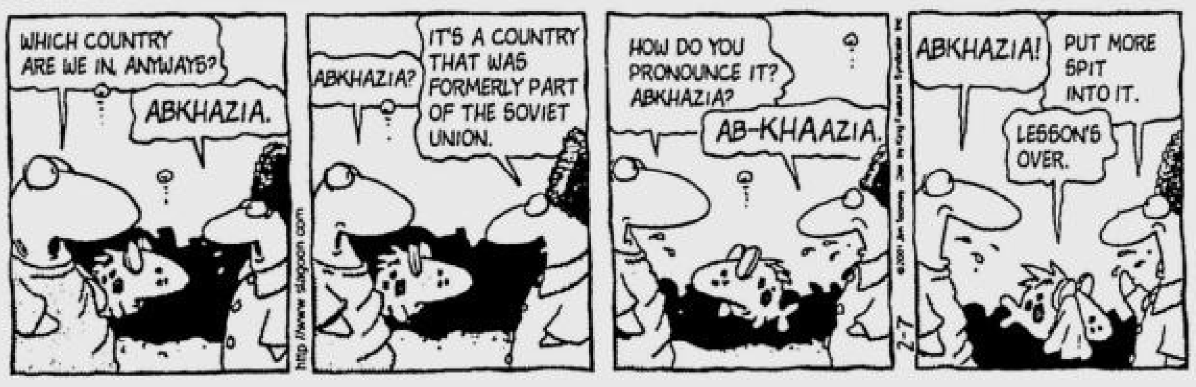
2-21
Wagner

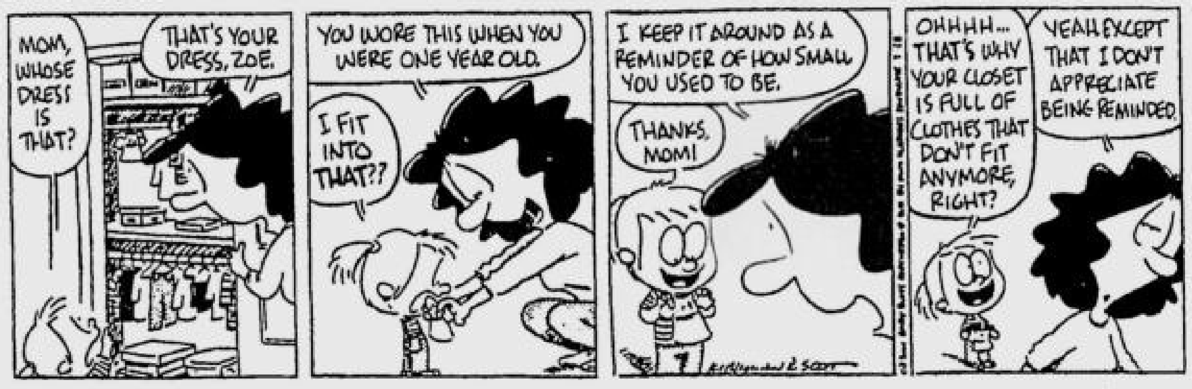
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHICH COUNTRY ARE WE IN, ANYWAYS?
ABKHAZIA.
http://www.slagoon.com
ABKHAZIA?
IT'S A COUNTRY THAT WAS FORMERLY PART OF THE SOVIET UNION.
HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE IT? ABKHAZIA?
AB-KHAAZIA.
ABKHAZIA!
PUT MORE SPIT INTO IT.
LESSON'S OVER.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM, WHOSE DRESS IS THAT?
THAT'S YOUR DRESS, ZOE.
YOU WORE THIS WHEN YOU WERE ONE YEAR OLD.
I FIT INTO THAT??
I KEEP IT AROUND AS A REMINDER OF HOW SMALL YOU USED TO BE.
THANKS, MOM!
OHHHH... THAT'S WHY YOUR CLOSET IS FULL OF CLOTHES THAT DON'T FIT ANYMORE, RIGHT?
YEAH EXCEPT THAT I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING REMINDED.
Kirkman & Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Broderick, Rosie O'Donnell, Timothy Dalton, Ayrton Senna, Gary Oldman, Cynthia Geary

Happy Birthday: You can do no wrong this year. Your articulate, clever style will capture the attention of those individuals who can help you make your dreams come true. The rewards are there for you to grab, so don't waste time thinking about what you want to do. Push your ideas and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Your numbers: 3, 18, 22, 29, 36, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your independent nature hold you back from asking for some much needed help. Assistance will be given readily and open up new avenues for friendships and partnerships to unfold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let your emotional problems interfere with your professional responsibilities. Keep your wits about you while operating equipment. Your difficulties are causing poor concentration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Rest and relaxation will be more beneficial than you think. Don't spend too much on products that promise amazing cosmetic results. A little exercise and proper diet will do wonders.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a close look at your personal papers. You should probably make some changes before your tax deadline. Don't leave things to the last minute and then worry about the outcome.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in a make-it or break-it situation when it comes to your partnerships. Don't be too eager to move on. Look at all your options and re-evaluate your own motives. You can make it work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be tempted to spend too much on entertainment. Trips will be costly and so will your lover if you allow it. Safe investments will be your salvation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make plans to go ahead with that change that you've been contemplating. You will have the discipline to stop those bad habits you picked up last year. It's time to turn your life around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Limitations at home are likely if you've been restrictive or just plain difficult to get along with. You can make amends if you do something special for the ones you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opposition is likely if you haven't been completely honest. It's best to avoid confrontations. Don't make changes involving your domestic scene. Accept the inevitable and learn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make money if you concentrate on producing services or goods that will make domestic chores easier. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty inviting.

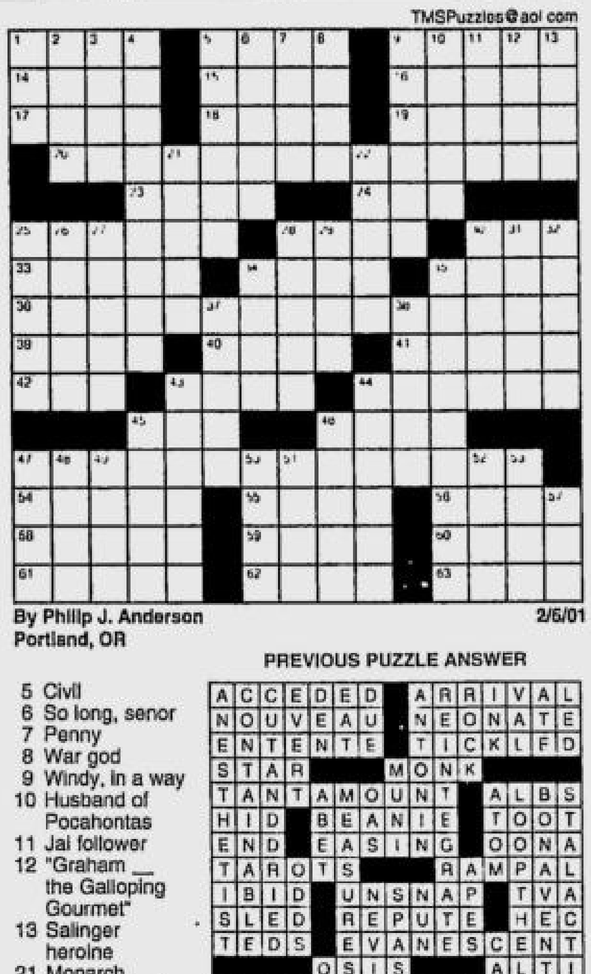
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your emotional stability is in question. Be careful not to let anyone play with your heart. You need time to think: Confusion is evident regarding your love life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Educational pursuits will be uplifting and will bring a higher-paying job. Opportunities for advancement can be yours if you make the necessary changes.

Birthday Baby: You have a charismatic appeal that will bring you popularity throughout your life. You are engaging, happy-go-lucky and eager to be involved in anything that appears to be exciting, adventuresome and enjoyable.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

2/6/01

ACROSS
1 Scholarly volume
5 Agouti's cousin
9 Chicago hotel
14 Candid
15 Baltic feeder
16 Screen personas
17 Waistcoat
18 Queue
19 Frighten
20 1981 Best Picture
23 Bonkers
24 AT&T rival
25 Rinse one's mouth
28 Capp of the comics
30 Studio apt.
33 Fred's first dancing partner
34 Macbeth's dagger
35 Bridal wear
36 Irwin Allen blockbuster of 1974, with "The"
39 Historic times
40 Farm building
41 Zodiac ram
42 Form datum
43 TV sports award
44 Live coals
45 Fruit beverage
46 Entreaty
47 1973 Mel Brooks comedy
54 Attempt to disprove
55 Talk wildly
56 Lupino and Tarbell
58 Habituate
59 Profess
60 Greek philosopher
61 Lugged
62 G-men
63 Remnants

DOWN
1 Mazel __
2 Fuel cartel's letters
3 Netting
4 Complicates
5 Civil
6 So long, senor
7 Penny
8 War god
9 Windy, in a way
10 Husband of Pocahontas
11 Jai follower
12 "Graham __ the Galloping Gourmet"
13 Salinger heroine
21 Monarch
22 City north of Salt Lake
25 Microsoft mogul
26 Love deeply
27 Polish again
28 Furious
29 Nuremberg negative
30 Spooky
31 "Nothing could be __..."
32 Dental-care product
34 Piece of cake
35 Put into words
37 "Hedda Gabler" playwright
38 Renowned
43 Emended
44 Church leaders
45 Blue shade
46 Laid asphalt
47 Yank's ally
48 Late night Jay
49 Adjoin
50 Seven-time Wimbledon winner
51 Rescue
52 Biblical garden
53 Hourglass contents
57 Help!

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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S	T	A	R	■	■	■	M	O	N	K	■	■	■	■
T	A	N	T	A	M	O	U	N	T	■	A	L	B	S
H	I	D	■	B	E	A	N	I	E	■	T	O	O	T
E	N	D	■	E	A	S	I	N	G	■	O	O	N	A
T	A	R	O	T	S	■	■	■	R	A	M	P	A	L
I	B	I	D	■	U	N	S	N	A	P	■	T	V	A
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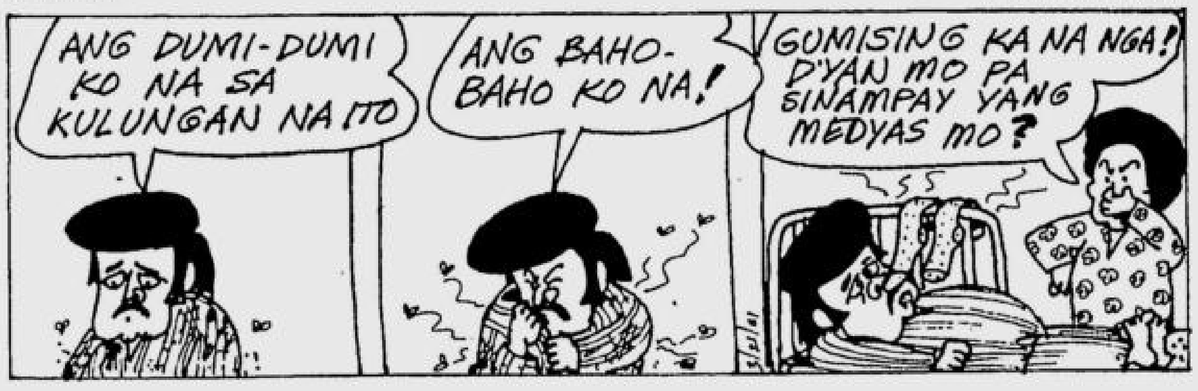
2/5/01

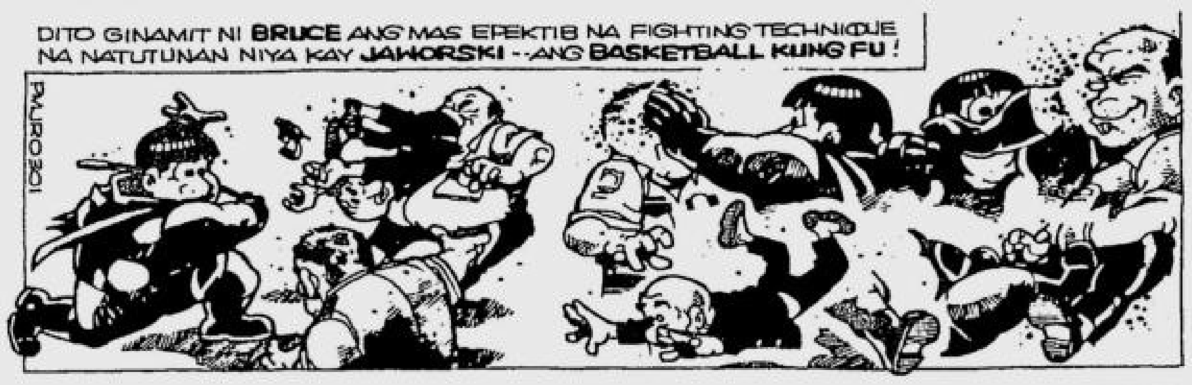
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DUMI-DUMI KO NA SA KULUNGAN NA ITO
ANG BAHO-BAHO KO NA!
GUMISING KA NA NGA! D'YAN MO PA SINAMPAY YANG MEDYAS MO?
3/21/01

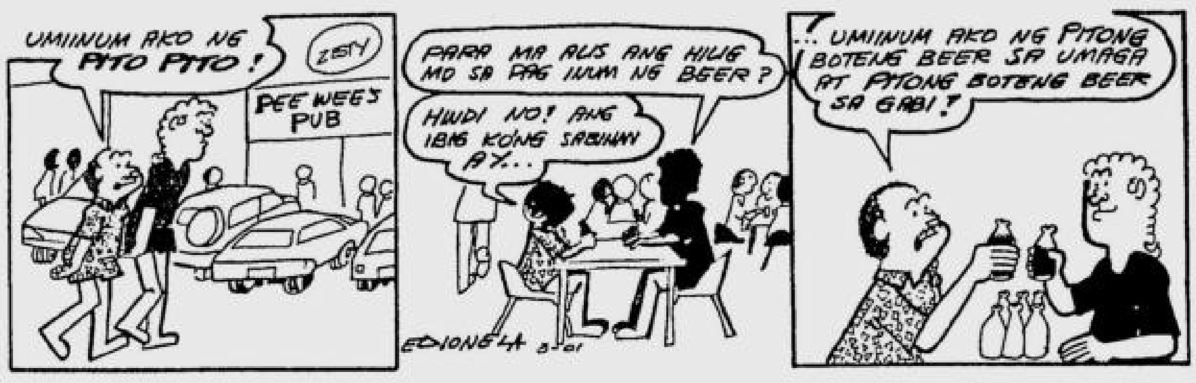
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DITO GINAMIT NI BRUCE ANG MAS EPEKTIB NA FIGHTING TECHNIQUE NA NATUTUNAN NIYA KAY JAWORSKI --ANG BASKETBALL KUNG FU!
PMJRO301

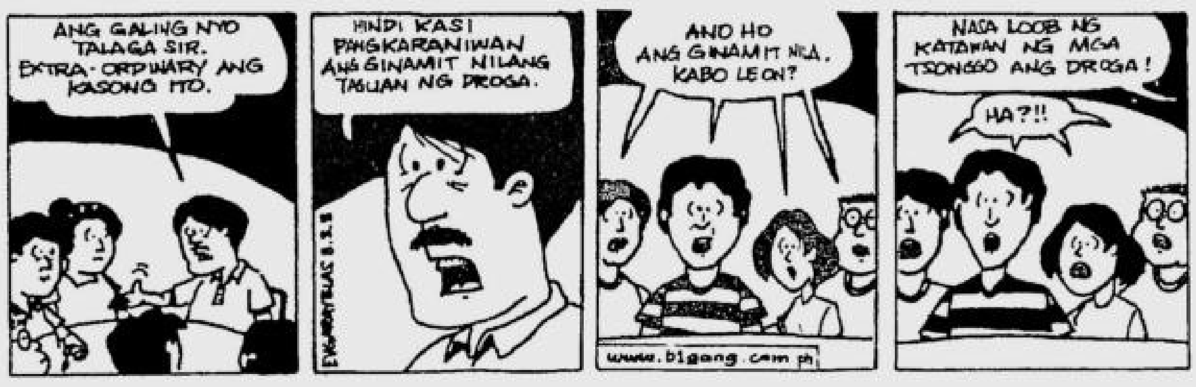
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


UMIINUM AKO NG PITO PITO!
ZESTY
PEE WEE'S PUB
PARA MA ALIS ANG HILIG MO SA PAG IIUM NG BEER?
HINDI NO! ANG IBIG KONG SABIHIN AY...
...UMIINUM AKO NG PITONG BOTENG BEER SA UMAGA AT PITONG BOTENG BEER SA GABI!
EDIONELA

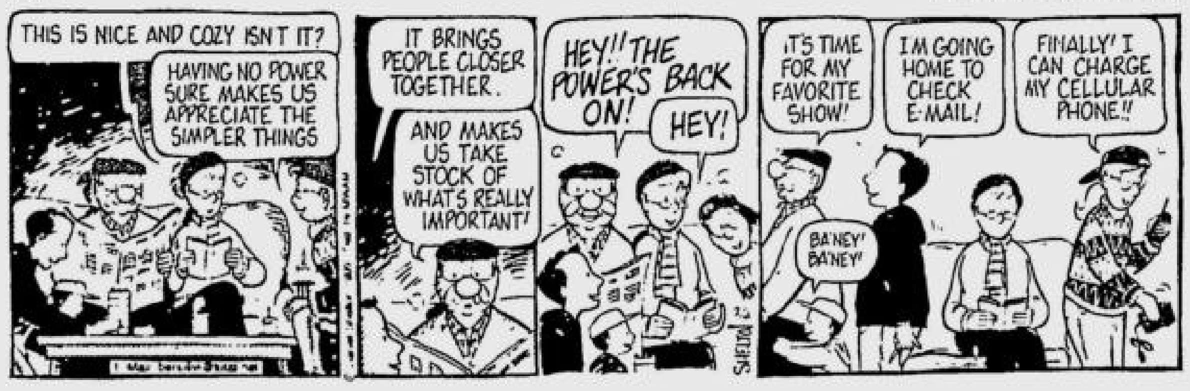
B1 GANG

BY A.T. SANTIAGUEL/ J.E. ALCARAZ/ E.V. GARAYBLAS


ANG GALING NYO TALAGA SIR. EXTRA-ORDINARY ANG KASONG ITO.
HINDI KASI PANGKARANIWAN ANG GINAMIT NILANG TAGUAN NG DROGA.
ANO HO ANG GINAMIT NILA, KABO LEON?
NASA LOOB NG KATAWAN NG MGA TSONGGO ANG DROGA!
HA?!!
www.b1gang.com.ph

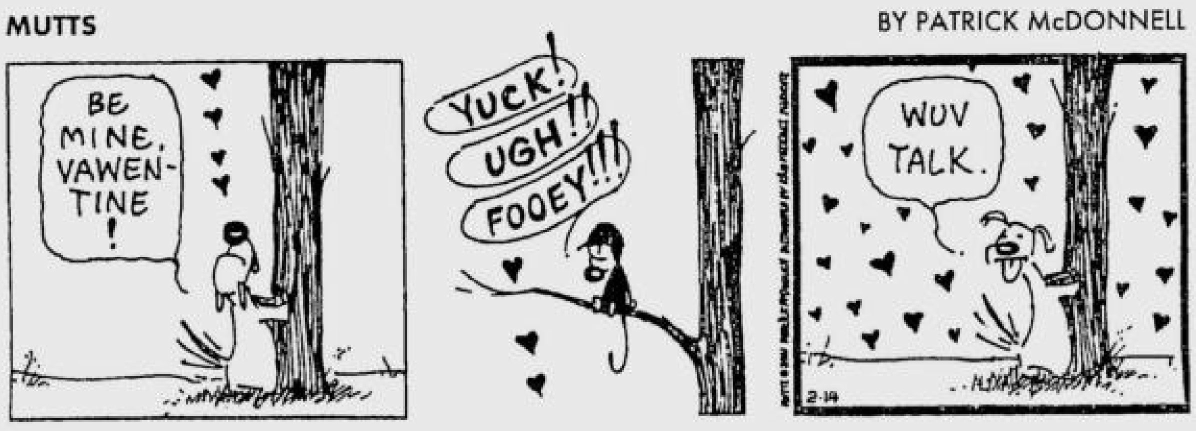
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IS NICE AND COZY ISN'T IT?
HAVING NO POWER SURE MAKES US APPRECIATE THE SIMPLER THINGS
IT BRINGS PEOPLE CLOSER TOGETHER.
AND MAKES US TAKE STOCK OF WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT!
HEY!! THE POWER'S BACK ON!
HEY!
IT'S TIME FOR MY FAVORITE SHOW!
BA'NEY! BA'NEY!
I'M GOING HOME TO CHECK E-MAIL!
FINALLY! I CAN CHARGE MY CELLULAR PHONE!!
SHELTON

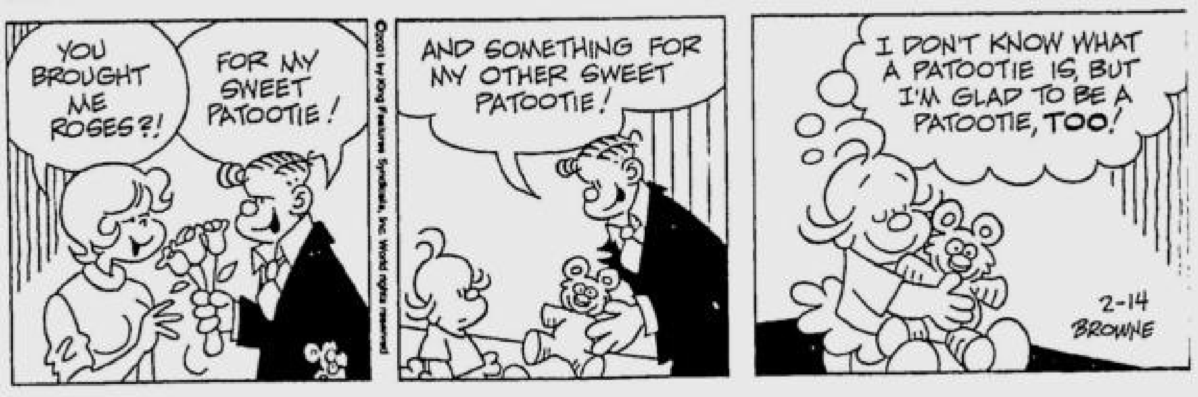
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE, VAWENTINE!
YUCK!
UGH!!
FOOEY!!!
WUV TALK.
2-14

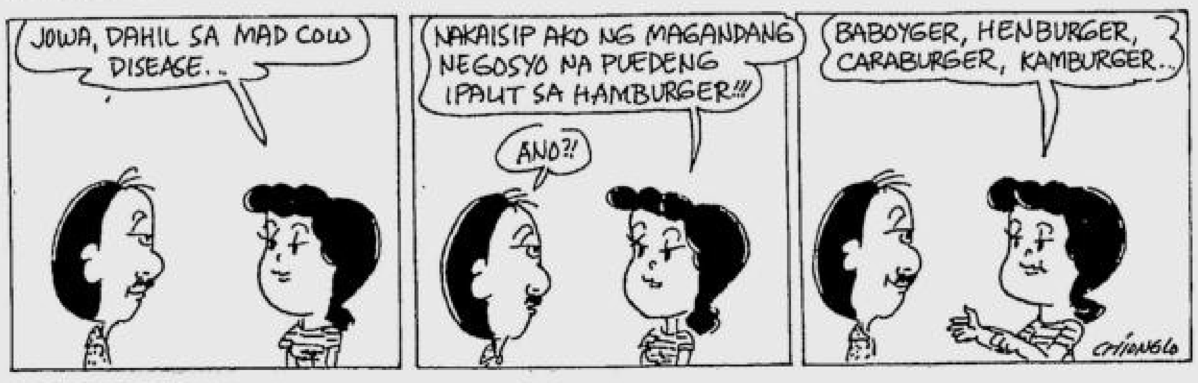
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU BROUGHT ME ROSES?!
FOR MY SWEET PATOOTIE!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
AND SOMETHING FOR MY OTHER SWEET PATOOTIE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT A PATOOTIE IS, BUT I'M GLAD TO BE A PATOOTIE, TOO!
2-14
BROWNE

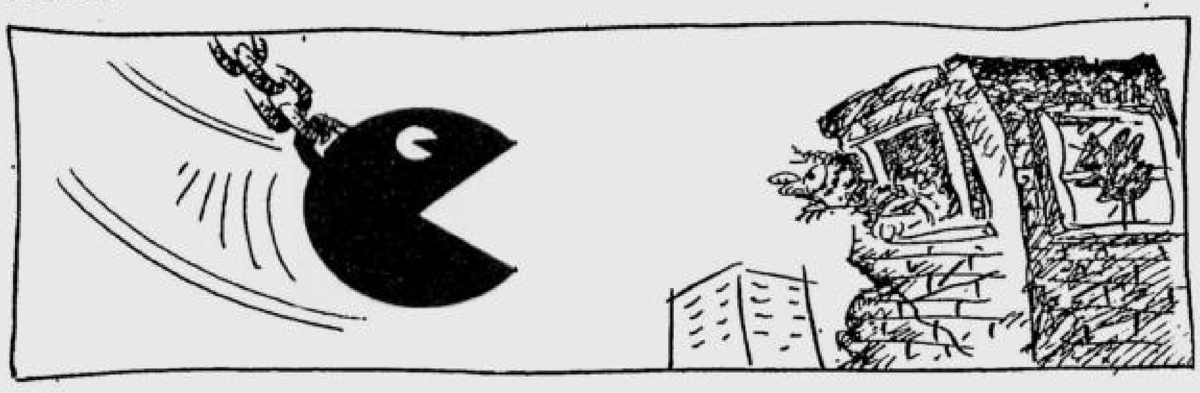
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, DAHIL SA MAD COW DISEASE..
NAKAISIP AKO NG MAGANDANG NEGOSYO NA PUEDENG IPALIT SA HAMBURGER!!!
ANO?!
BABOYGER, HENBURGER, CARABURGER, KAMBURGER...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Graduation gifts to go

By Harold Jason L. Doplito
2bU! correspondent

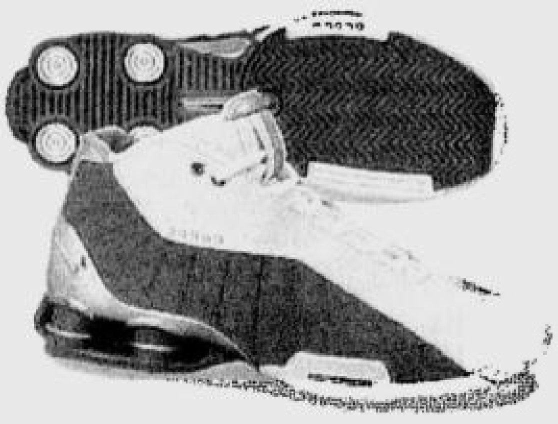
YOU'VE enslaved yourself for four, five, six or even seven years. You've practically become bald, trying to figure out the perfect subject for your thesis. You've sacrificed your love life just to pass chemistry, which you've been taking for three semesters. You've been branded a teacher's pet because it's the only way you think you can pass the subject. And this gives you seizure every time you think about it.

But you can finally put everything behind you as you walk on stage and receive the fruit of your labor. "Yes!" you think loud, "I've finally made it. I'll finally have it." As you reach out your hand for that final handshake with the dean and that piece of rolled paper in his hand, you grin sarcastically, "Really nice."

Of course, there's more to it than the diploma: friendships you've made, the wisdom you've acquired and the experience you'll cherish. Not to mention, the pride you're giving your parents after years of constant migraine. But on graduation day, you'd want something more than a piece of paper, right? Here are some ideas on what could be the perfect item for you. Families and friends of all graduating students, take your pick.

COLLEGE STATEMENT. For the high school graduate who wants to make a classic statement, this metallic bold Swatch is perfect. Come to think of it, the last thing you'd want for college is the fuss.

TIME OUT. Parents of graduating students, imagine this: Once they stepped out of college, there'd be no more vacation season for them. They'd have to beg for a vacation leave from their employer and it won't be easy, you know that. So why make them hurry to find a job so soon? Give them a vacation. They need it.

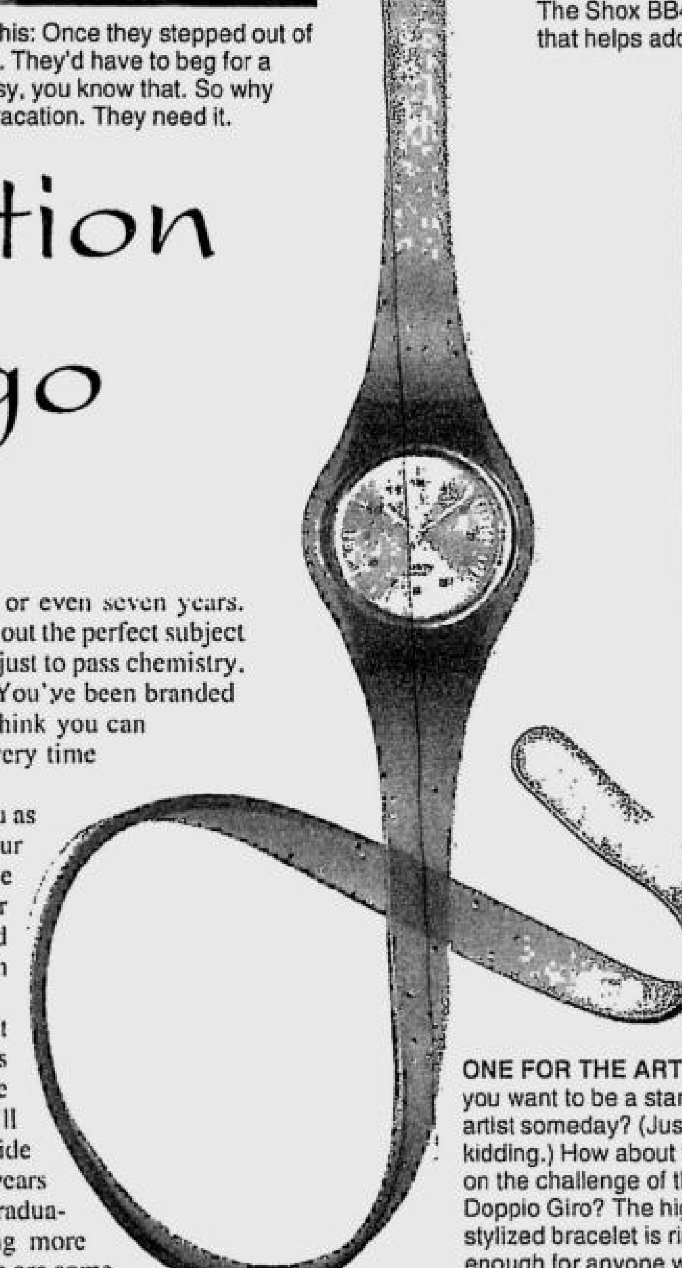


SHOCKING SHOX. Say, you don't have anything to spend $150 for. Why not be such a generous gift-giver and shock the recipient to death with this new line from Nike. Shox, it's called, and it has a cushioning system in the heel to absorb that mean play of basketball. The Shox BB4 also has a "trampoline" system that helps add an extra energy to that jump.

THE NOKIA 8250. Cell phones have become an integral part of our daily lives, whether you're studying or working. Find him/her the perfect mobile phone that would suit his/her personality, then there'd be no excuse for you two not to keep in touch. This particular phone has a blue backlight for a creative twist. Otherwise known as the ultimate *porma* phone.

BIOLOGICAL BABE. Ever wanted to have a butterfly tattooed on your body? Eliminate the risk of ugly scars by having them on your watch instead. The Swatch Sky Fly makes a bold statement by looking feminine at the same time. Perfect for anyone who's in college or has just gotten out of it.

THE NOKIA 8890. For that corporate look



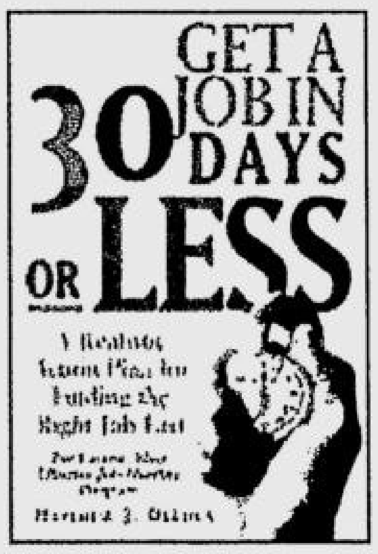
ONE FOR THE ARTS. So, you want to be a starving artist someday? (Just kidding.) How about taking on the challenge of the Doppio Giro? The highly stylized bracelet is right enough for anyone who wants to solve riddled problems and be creative at the same time. Also from Swatch.

THE NOKIA 3310. Capable of 460 characters with multiple chat sending

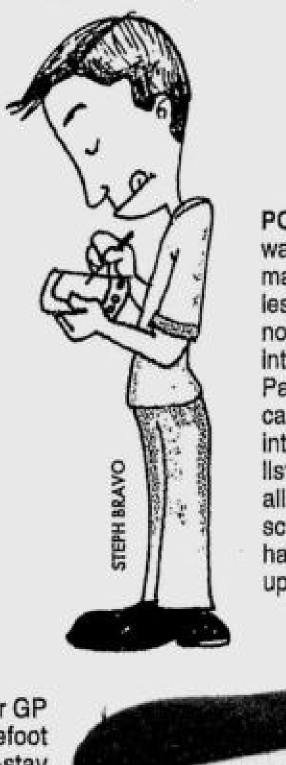
THE NOKIA 6210. Stores up to 500 phone numbers with 220 calendar memory.

FRIENDS OVER TIME. This Swatch Freunde is a friendship bracelet-turned-watch that would definitely leave a lasting mark on your graduating friend. Simply tie the knot around her wrist and wish that both of you would still have time for each other even if you're already charting your own careers.

THE SIEMENS SL45. With 64 meg of MP3 or five hours of voice recording



GIVE advice, but not from you. Your advice may have saved her life a few times, but during these times, he needs cash... fast! Why don't you give something very useful like this book, "Get a Job in 30 Days or Less," by Matthew DeLuca. Other titles include, "Job Interviews That Mean Business" by David Eyler and "101 Quick Tips for a Dynamite Résumé" by Richard Fein. Available at PowerBooks.



POWER IN YOUR HANDS. You want to give the gift of proper time management? It's a pretty hard lesson to teach but he'll surely take note of your lectures once he's introduced to the proper gadget—the Palm Pilot. This electronic organizer can hold everything you want to pack into it—calendar, address book, to-do lists, memos and e-mail messages, all those just by tapping on your screens. In particular, this Palm Vx has 8 MB of memory so you can load up with a lot of other applications.

SCIENCE HE'LL LOVE. The Air GP III "features a dynamic-fit forefoot sleeve, an internalized eye-stay design, full-length anti-inversion stability fingers and a TPU shank plate to stabilize your foot's every move." Sounds like the latest in technology? Well, yeah, in shoe technology. This same shoe which propel Gary Payton to rocket-speed "sprint dribbling" would surely leave your man breathless. And he doesn't have to be necessarily an incoming sports science freshie this school year.

True Classics

-10%
Artic Zone Collapsible Cooler
Werner ladder
Weber
Kwikset & Schlage Entry Lockset
SALE
20-50%
From March 16 to April 1, 2001, we're putting together all our classic items at a price you've never seen. So, take advantage of our biggest sale of the year as we get ready to make things better for you.
Folding Fence
up to 70% off
Gardening Tools
Master Plumber
Angelo lights

True Value.
Anything to Help
Shangri-La Mall and Cebu
Per DTI-NCR permit number 0696 series of 200

HOME • AUTOMOTIVE • GARDENING • HARDWARE

Reminiscing school life

TO THE DEAN, parents and fellow graduates... good day. I would like to pretend this is not a farewell speech. I would like to believe this is more like an Oscar gratification speech. So hand me my medal that I could talk and cry even, if I feel like it.

For four grueling years, five for the unfortunate ones, life has been a series of lessons learned the hard way. We started with such idealism that we could change the world, that we would be the next president, that we would go through college without any violation of "forgotten ID," "using someone else's ID," "improper dress code," "allowing PDA" (duh!), "parking at the Dean's designated spot" and many more—then return to earth.

We make the same mistakes a hundred times. We learned that no matter how careful we are with the bread in the toaster, it always comes out overdone or burnt. We pray for a better future, a brighter tomorrow and yet we sleep through the shrills of the alarm clock and rise 30 minutes before the bell rings and end up with misery in traffic. We joined rallies and protests in the belief that we could be a part of history and someday tell our grandchildren we were one of the brave citizens, and yet, for anyone's sake, didn't even have a boyfriend.

Thank you to our parents who, for the past four years (in college), still 10 years (in grade school and preschool), plus several summers (of back subjects, ballet lessons, piano lessons, voice lessons, swimming lessons, etc.) have been our constant guide, shoulder to cry on and bank account.

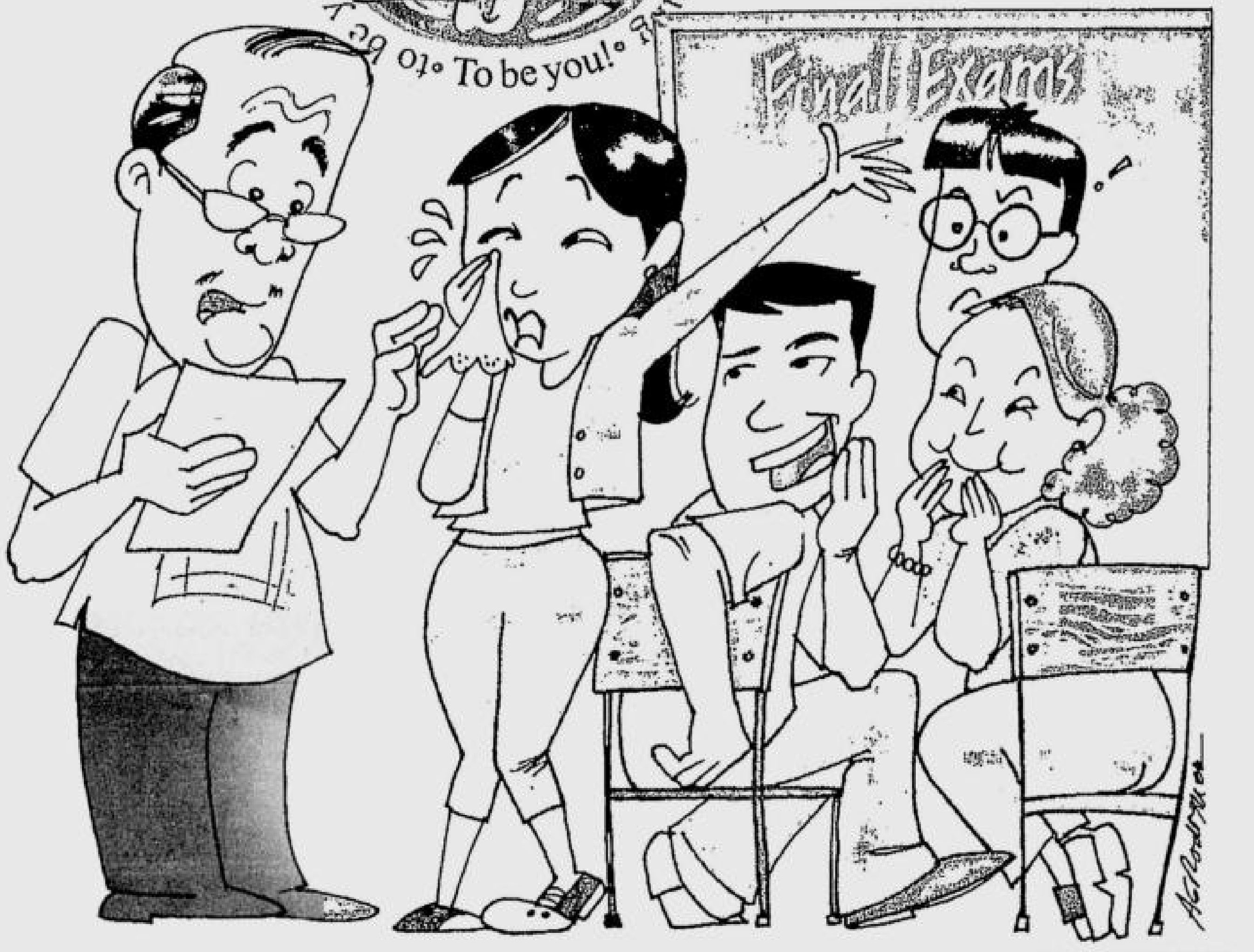


ILLUSTRATION ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

This is the time for confession. Remember the time I said I was going to my Saturday class? I actually went to Los Baños with my friend. The real reason I wanted those swimming lessons was because I thought lifeguards are the epitome of "Baywatch" heroes, but I was wrong. All those seminars and symposiums were actually play rehearsals. The swimming party was not in Antipolo, it was in Cavite.

Because of you, dear parents, we are getting ready for our karma 20 years from now.

Let us not forget our professors, the best examples of Robert Fulghum's "All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." You have taught that the power of crying works in chemistry. It exempted me from the finals. Then there's the power of sore eyes, which prevented me from joining an exposure trip and the miracle of Nicholas Cage's puppy eyes in "City of Angels" which vanquished an FA in computer.

From you, my dear teachers, I have learned that some people in this world are good in pretending. In statistics, you may not know the answer but you could at least pretend to be doing your frequency table. The effect is intimidating.

You have taught me to appreciate the form of the human body. Compared to a frog, I know we got a better deal.

And most especially you, our beloved teachers, have taught us the meaning of life, which is not learned in school.

Thank you for our friends who stood by us through all the troubles, heartaches and angst. Years from now, we'd reminisce all those days of falling in love with my leading man who had to wear tights as Oberon. You made me realize that the head should rule over the heart.

Your practical advice, I would keep forever. Stretch my lips longer to create the Julia Roberts' smile.

Lastly, Julia Roberts, you have been my constant source of inspiration and desperation. Over the years, you have made me desperate in growing my hair, curling my strands, memorizing your lines, playing your soundtracks and doing horrifying exercises with my abs. You have taught me that dental floss surprises Richard Gere.

I believe in the power of your lines. As I sit in a dimly lighted auditorium, I see everyone swept off their feet with the immortal lines: "I'm also just a girl standing in front of a boy asking him to love her."

I also believe that you are lying. You are not just a girl, you will never stand in front of a boy and ask him to love you. I might, though, but it would be a disaster.

So to all of my fellow students wearing togas and a thicker makeup than the usual, congratulations! To those who have never worn makeup, there's a nearby comfort room outside the auditorium.

Looking back on the years gone by, I pray we have no regrets, that we have done our best, that finally, after four years of college, we have somehow accepted Rhoda really looks like Lucy Torres, forgiven Anne for thinking that she is a supermodel and understood Janelle for changing boyfriends as easily as her ring tones.

In the succeeding days and years, we would wonder: When again would life be this simple? When would life's problems consist only of midterms, thesis and free cuts? When would he call? After torturing me, when would I get revenge from Ms Omampo? When would I win my Oscar?

SYLVIA CANCIO and FRIENDS!
23-A Mariposa Street, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 725-2055, 810-7196

COOKING, BAKING and DECORATING CLASSES

March 24, Saturday, 9-12 am THAI COOKING 1 Tom Kha Gai (Chicken Soup), Tom Yung Goong, Phad Thai Noodles, Steamed Lapu Lapu, Thai Barbecue: Chicken, Pork, Squid, Papaya Salad, Flaming Seafood Curry P 1,000

March 24, Saturday, 2-6 pm BASIC BAKING 1 Learn 3 Basic Cake Bases: Chiffon Cake, Sponge Cake, Butter Cake and a basic Pie Crust. See how these are transformed into a Coffee Crunch Cake, White Chocolate Trifle and American Apple Pie P 1000

March 26, Monday, 2-5 pm ASIAN COOKING 1 Hainanese Chicken Rice, Vietnamese Springrolls, Claypot Chicken Rice, Curry Kapitan, Beansprouts with Salted Fish, Almond Jelly P 800

March 27, Tuesday, 2-5 pm SALAD BAR, SALAD DRESSINGS AND SAUCES Seven Layer Salad, Salad Bar Assorted Greens and Other Condiments, Salad Dressings, Roasted Garlic Dressing, Thousand Island Dressing, Creamy Blue Cheese Dressing, Tangy French Dressing, Southern Barbecue Sauce with Pork Chops, Tangy Tartar Sauce for Seafood Grill P 800

March 28, Wednesday, 2-5 pm MORE ON CHOCOLATE Death by Chocolate, Fudgy Brownies, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chocolate Pudding w/ Vanilla Sauce P 1000

March 29, Thursday, 2-5 pm PIES AND CHEESECAKES Apple Pie with Streusel, Blueberry Cheesecake, No Bake Cheesecake, Quiche Lorraine, Lemon Meringue Pie, Strawberry Cream Pie P 1,000

March 30, Friday, 2-5 pm MORE CAKES Rum Cake, Black Forest Cake, Prune Cake Carrot Cake P 800

March 31, Saturday, 9-12 nn THAI COOKING 2 Glass Noodle Salad, Bagoong Rice, Catfish Salad, Spicy Kangkong, Shrimp Pancake, Century Egg Salad, Mango with Sticky Rice P 1,000

March 31, Saturday, 2-6 pm BASIC BAKING 2 Learn the Basic Icings and Frostings Boiled Icing, 7-Minute Frosting, Butter Icing, Royal Icing (for sugar flowers) Chocolate Fudge Icing. Cakes Chocolate Fudge Cake, 2 Birthday Cakes P 1,000

April 2, Monday, 2-5 pm Special Dinner Menu 1 Dijon Baked Mussels, French Onion Soup, Paella, Roast Beef, Caesars Salad, Mango Jubilee P 1,000

April 3, Tuesday, 9-12 am LENTEN SPECIAL Stuffed Squid, Pan Fried Shrimps with Garlic, Fresh Baked Sardines, Wild Mushroom Risotto Tiramisu P 800

April 3, Tuesday, 2-5 pm Special Dinner Menu 2 English Clam Chowder, Prawn and Mango Salad, Lengua Estofada con Champignon, Baked Fish in Fillo Pastry, Crepe Samurai P 1,000

April 4, Wednesday, 9-12 am BEST CHICKEN RECIPES Roast Chicken with Gravy and Herbed Potatoes, Chicken Curry Coq Au Vin, Chicken a la Kiev, Chicken Croquettes P 800

April 4, Wednesday, 9-12 pm THAI APPETIZERS Prawn Rolls, Rice Crispy Chips with Herbed Peanut Sauce, Herbed Salad with Winged Beans, Grilled Beef Salad with Grapes, Herbed and Sweetened Shrimp Paste, Fried Banana Fritters P 800

April 5, Thursday, 2-5 pm PASTAS AND MORE Baked Lasagna, Baked Seafood Spaghetti, Carbonara, Putanesca, Home-made Pasta Noodles P 800

April 6, Friday, 9-12 am ITALIAN PIZZAS Basic Pizza Crust, Basic Tomato Sauce, Pesto Sauce and Cream Sauce, Variations: Quattro Formaggio, Seafood, Salami, Ham and Cheese, Florentine Pizza, Salami and Mozarella, 4 Seasons, Foccacia Bread P 1,000

April 6, Friday, 2-5 pm CHINESE STYLE Kung Pao Shrimp, Sweet and Sour Pork, Mu Shu Pork, Lemon Chicken, Roast Chicken with Chinese Sausage Stuffing P 800

April 7, Saturday, 9-12 nn THAI COOKING 3 Pandan Chicken, Thai Chicken Curry, Beef Curry, Shrimp Curry, Green Mango Salad, Spicy Squid Salad, Pineapple Rice, Poh Piah (Thai Spring Rolls) P 1,000

April 7, Saturday, 2-6:30 pm YEAST DOUGHS Special Ensaimada, Cinnamon Buns, Clover Leaf Rolls, Pan de Sal P 1,000

KIDS COOKING This course teaches your kids the basics of Cooking and Baking. Our most popular, HANDS-ON summer course with a minimum number of students to ensure proper learning. Choose any session that interests your children from AGES 7-12 years. Reservations required. P 700/lesson (with Sylvia Cancio, Naila Bueno and Ditas Intengan)

Lesson 1: Monday, March 26, 9-12 nn or Tuesday, March 27, 2-5 pm: Banana Lollipop, Ice Cone Cake, Spaghetti Crust Pie, Teddy Bear Bread, Apple Crumble

Lesson 2: Tuesday, March 27, 9-12 nn or Thursday, March 29, 2-5 pm Cinnamon Toasts, Marshmallow Crispies, Peanut Butter with Dippers, Mini Hamburgers, No Bake Snackers, Cheesy Cheese Pie

Lesson 3: Wednesday, March 28, 9-12 nn or Saturday, March 31, 2-5 pm Clubhouse Sandwich Complete, Biscuit Bazaar, Chicken Fingers, Wrap-Me-Up Spaghetti, Popcorn Snowmen

Lesson 4: Thursday, March 29, 9-12 nn or Tuesday, April 3, 2-5 pm No Bake Cheesecake with Oreo, Designasaur A Pizza, Apple Cheese Fritters, Round Dog with Chili con Carne, Mexican Fruit Platter

Lesson 5: Friday, March 30, 9-12 nn or Thursday, April 5, 2-5 pm Moist Chocolate Cake with White Frosting, Cream of Chicken Soup, Tacos, Super Chicken Salad, Creamy Chocolate Fudge

Lesson 6: Monday, April 2, 9-12 nn or Saturday, April 7, 2-5 pm Teddy Bear Pancakes, Tiny Tuna Baskets, Mini-Springrolls, Fruity Sugar Cookies, Chocolate Cupcakes

Lesson 7: Tuesday, April 3, 9-12 nn or Tuesday, April 17, 2-5 pm; Apple Cheese Fritters, Carrot Cupcakes, Oriental Fried Rice, Ham/Chicken Empanadas, Mango Crepes

Lesson 8: Wednesday, April 4, 9-12nn or Thursday, April 19, 2-5 pm Farm Style Oatmeal Cookies, Ceasar's Salad, Fish and Potato Croquettes, Chicken Cakes with Teriyaki Sauce, Chocolate Crinkles

Lesson 9: Thursday, April 5, 9-12 nn or Saturday, April 21, 2-5 pm Blueberry Lattice, Japanese Style Hamburgers, Rice Omelette, Five Flavor Noodles, Beef Stroganoff.

Lesson 10: Friday, April 6, 9-12 nn or Tuesday, April 24, 2-5 pm; Lemon Tarts, Mongolian Stir-fry, Creamy Baked Spaghetti, Dimsum, Pineapple Upsidedown Cake

Lesson 11: Monday, April 16, 9-12 nn or Thursday, April 26, 2-5 pm Pinwheel Kebabs, Tuna on Shoestring, Sesame Cheese Twists, Fisherman's Burger, Choco Chunky Brownies

Lesson 12: Tuesday, April 17, 9-12 nn or Saturday, April 28 2-5 pm; Express Fruit Salad, Macaroni Cheese, Japanese Fried Chicken, Quick Rolls and Bears, Puffy California Omelette

Lesson 13: Wednesday, April 18, 9-12 nn; Creamy Potato Salad, Mini Apple Pie, Cheese Cupcakes, Hotdog Rollups, Korean Bulgogi

Lesson 14: Thursday, April 19, 9-12 nn; Burritos, Sausage Rolls, Tiny Teriyaki, Lengua Cookies, Lazy Lasagne

Lesson 15: Friday, April 20, 9-12 nn; Banana Bread, Chocolate Jelly Roll, Barbecued Pork, Katsudon, Crema de Fruta

BEGINNERS COOKING with Naila Bueno; This course teaches everyday dishes for homemakers. P 700/lesson

Lesson 1, March 24, Saturday, 9-12nn; Sweet and Sour Embutido, Dinuguan, Spaghetti with Aligui Sauce, Fish Balls with Veggie Mix, Crispy Ukoy; Longanizang Hubad, Calabasa Bread

Lesson 2, March 31, Saturday, 9-12 nn; Chinese Moon Balls, Sweet and Sour Pork, Steamed Fish, Rural Style, Shrimp in Taro Wrap, Pork Strips with Shiitake Mushrooms, Pancit Canton with Chicken and Black Bean Sauce

Lesson 3, April 7, Saturday, 9-12 nn; Crispy Fried Chicken, Spaghetti with Aligui Sauce, Spicy Tuna with Pechay, Salmagundi Salad, Salted Fish Adobo, Beef Teriyaki, Creamy Macaroni Soup

Lesson 4, April 21, Saturday, 9-12 nn Pinakbet, Mongo Guisado, Ginataan Halo-Halo, Afritada, Squid Paksiw, Igado

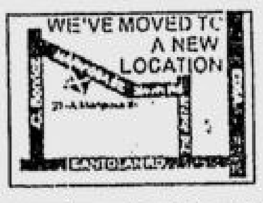
Lesson 5, April 28, Saturday, 9-12 nn Kare Kare, Paksiw na Isda with Alagaw Leaves, Sisig, Tortang Talong, Lumpiang Shanghai, Express Leche Flan

My Lola's-Recipes with Ditas Intengan P 700/lesson

March 28, Wednesday, 2-5 pm; Old Fashioned Style Mechado, Pangat na Isda in Mango Leaves, Special Sotanghon Guisado, Chicken Asado, Banana Sundae

April 4, Wednesday, 2-5 pm, My Lola's Kare Kare (includes Pata Adobado), Kilawin Labanos, Callos, Natillas

April 11, Wednesday 2-5 pm; April 19 Laing, Sinampalukang Manok, Steamed Apahap, Shepherd's Pie, Lentejas, Leche Flan



Limited number of Students.
Reservations required
Ingredients are included in the tuition
Please bring food containers.
For your catering needs, please call:
The Pallete Caterers at
Tel. No. 810-7196

BEAUTY COMES IN MANY FORMS.
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Quezon City: 24 Mahusay St. cor. Maginhawa St., U.P. Vill., Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

1st Anniversary Promo, March 15-31, 2001, 40% off on all treatments, 50% off on March 23 & 24, 2001.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0734 Series of 2001

Hair today, hair tomorrow

Man is a creature of habit. Through the years, we have developed a health routine for us to survive the ravages of time. However, sensitive and important parts of the body like our teeth and hair are the most affected by changes wrought by time. This is why cleaning our body and strengthening our health should be part of our daily routine.

To put it simply, our body ages with us. Some body functions don't perform as effectively as before and visiting the dentist twice a year ensures a stronger set in the future. To take care of our hair, we wash it daily and visit the parlor for hot oil treatments.

But the care we give our hair today may not be enough. Often, we start looking for ways of preserving it only when we start losing it. Our young age doesn't matter either. In fact, by the time we reach mid-20's, blood circulation slows down. And when this happens, the nutrients that our body needs are not easily absorbed.

Fortunately, preventive measures may now be taken to preserve hair vitality and strength. Like teeth, our hair can now go through a treatment we can do on our own. Foltène is the treatment for healthy hair. With Foltène, strengthening our hair is as easy as brushing teeth.

Foltène works as a hair conditioner. But unlike other conditioners that merely stay on the head surface, Foltène promotes heightened absorption of nutrients by hair follicles. This process leads to the growth of fuller, healthier and younger-looking hair. Making all these possible is Foltène's active ingredient, Trichosaccharide, a natural biological compound that helps you keep the hair you still have.

Foltène is so easy to apply. After shampooing, towel dry hair then apply Foltène directly to scalp. Do not rinse it off and do not shampoo for six hours to ensure the essential contact time. Use only one vial at a time. For those with excessive falling or thinning hair, undergo the attack and maintenance phase where you apply one vial every other day for 40 days (20 vials). While in the maintenance phase, use two vials per week for two to three months. For those suffering from dandruff, dry hair, split ends and oily or dry-scalp, use two vials per week for three months to ensure healthier scalp. Resume the attack or maintenance cycle as needed to maintain healthy hair and scalp condition.

However, Foltène is not a miracle drug because there is no known cure for baldness. It does not promise to ressurect hair from a bald pate. What it does is work with the salvageable hair roots by stimulating blood circulation. And although it cannot bring back lost hair, it helps you prevent further hair loss and thinning of hair.

Start with the regular Foltène routine today and have healthier hair.

For more inquiries, please write to
The Patriot Bldg., Km. 18 West Service Road
South Luzon Expressway, Sucat, Parañaque City

Foltène®
WHEN YOU CAN'T STAND TO LOSE YOUR HAIR.
Marketed by Natrapharm

Available at all mercury drug outlets, Family Drugstores and other leading drugstores nationwide.
For more inquiries, please call the Foltène Infoline: 541-4378 (office hours only).